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1846

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PAMPHLETS.



Brighton  
School  
Committee

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1839-69

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BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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# CONTENTS.



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Received May 6, 1869.

Wm. L. G. Co.  
1869  
No. 1000 of 100



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First  
Annual Report  
of the  
School Committee  
of the  
Town of Brighton,  
For  
1838-39.

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Brighton:  
Town Records.  
1839.



1875

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1875



# Report.

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In presenting their Report of the state of the schools during the past municipal year, <sup>your</sup> Committee deem it unnecessary to present a very particular statement of individual schools, as their records contain the necessary information. They would remark, however, that in general, the progress of the pupils in the several schools has afforded them much satisfaction. They believe there has been a general and



commendable desire on the part  
 of the Teachers to do all in their  
 power for the progressive advance-  
 ment of those under their care;  
 & they have cheerfully availed  
 themselves of all the facilities  
 at hand for this purpose. The  
 Summer Schools that were  
 continued during the time  
 assigned for them, gave de-  
 cided evidence of improvement;  
 & so far as the Committee had  
 the means of judging, were  
 under a good and whole-  
 some discipline. In regard  
 to the winter schools, if they  
 may be allowed to speak  
 of their comparative merits,  
 the Committee would  
 express their unqualified  
 approbation of the good



order, general interest in study and progress of the pupils, particularly of the Centre & North Districts under the care of Messrs. Rice & Seaver. By this, your Committee would not be understood as implying that the schools in the other Districts were of no special benefit. They believe, as before stated, that all were desirous of advancing their pupils in knowledge. The Summer & Winter Schools have been visited, seventeen different times, notice of which will be found in their Records.

The Committee regret that anything should have transpired to disturb the progress of these schools; but they feel compelled



to mention a single incident of the last summer that the public mind may be disabused.

In accordance with the law of this State referring to Teachers of Public Schools, they invited those who had the <sup>\*</sup>Superintendence of the Schools to meet them at a specified time for examination. After the two sessions of the Committee, all the Teachers but one were examined & cordially approved. The Instructress in the Centre District refused to comply with the request; & the law left them no other alternative but to remove the Teacher & fill the vacancy. Exceptions however, were taken to this

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\* Foot-note in the Report. See p. 11



course; & the District at a public meeting, voted to appropriate the money remaining for summer school instruction to the winter school, — which was cheerfully complied with by the Committee. The school was accordingly suspended.

Your Committee have witnessed with deep regret, the evils arising from the want of suitable apparatus of various kinds in the schools. It is not expected of any Teacher that he perform an impossibility; & therefore, we are unable to see what real benefit can accrue to pupils from the study of Philosophy, or



Chemistry, or History without the means of illustrating such parts of the Sciences as require illustration. A few hundred dollars would be most profitably invested in procuring an apparatus that would seem to meet the exigencies of the case. There would be more pleasure in studying those subjects, which, at present, are so repulsive to the pupils generally; and the school-room would be the place of real enjoyment.

Your Committee feel, also, that there is too much indifference to the location, the comfort and the convenience of our School-houses. The best



part of them is outside. The internal arrangement of every school-room is decidedly injurious & defective. In two, or three instances the Committee found the children dependant upon a thorough & constant bracing of the hands & feet to keep themselves in an upright position. Hence the children became wearied with school & uninterested in their studies. Hence, too, we find the cause of many diseases which riper years will disclose to our view.

Your Committee regret, also, that Parents and Guardians of children evince so little interest



in their progress in knowledge while attending school. Scarcely a parent has visited the schools during the past year, and but few, very few have evinced any particular sympathy for the teacher who has labored so unremittingly for the good of his pupils. Why so much sympathy on this subject exists they will not say, but they would inquire whether Public School Instruction is sufficiently appreciated. While this Term raised Twelve-hundred dollars for the support of the several schools therein, about Nine-hundred dollars was contributed



to the different Private  
Schools.

All which is respectfully  
submitted by the School-  
Committee of Brighton.

H. Lamson, Chairman.  
D. Kingsley, Secretary.

Note from the Report, referred  
to on page 6.

"The Committee were not  
chosen until after the Schools  
had commenced."

This signifies that the  
Prudential Committee had en-  
gaged Teachers & opened the  
Schools before the Town had chosen  
its General Superintending Committee.  
Should not the Com. of 1837-38 have examin-  
ed them, before beginning their schools? F.A.W.



## Appendix

1869

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In connection with statements on pages nine & ten, it may be stated likewise, that in the same year in which this Report was written, Hon Horace Mann remarked to a gentleman of Brighton that that Town stood far above the average of Towns in Massachusetts, in regard to the condition of ~~the~~ Schools & School-houses. Mr. Mann had been, then, two years,



the first Secretary of the  
Mass Board of Education.  
Was making an exam-  
ination of the Schools  
of the several towns & Cities.

By table on page  
22 of Tenth Report, & by sim-  
ilar Tables in several sub-  
sequent Reports of this volume,  
it will be seen that for two  
years successively, 1841-42 and  
1842-43, Brighton stood first  
among all the towns & Cities  
of Massachusetts, in the amount  
of money raised for the education  
of each school child.

From Table on page 34,  
Auditors' Report, 1868, it will be  
seen that Brighton expended  
(1867-68) for schools & school-houses,  
nearly twenty-nine thousand  
dollars.



The School Committee  
of Brighton, presenting this  
Report, were as follows, —

Edmund Rice, Jr.,  
Rev. Samuel Larrison,  
James Loyd La Fayette Warren,  
Nathan Barnuth,  
Daniel Kingsley.

---

This Report copied for  
Boston Public Library, at  
the request of its Superintend-  
ent, Mr. Justin Winsor, by  
Esther A. Whitney.

Gardner St., Brighton,  
April 28, 1869.



2d.  
Brighton  
School Report  
April 1840.

The First was printed.



This Report,  
the first which was printed,  
was written by Josiah Rutter, of  
H. U. 1833, - afterwards Lawyer in  
Waltham. He taught a Private  
School in Brighton, on Acade-  
my Hill, before the High School  
was established.

Ten Towns in the State printed  
their Reports so early as 1840, but  
sent them in manuscript to the  
State House. In 1837, the Law re-  
quired a copy to be sent to the  
State Department, but did not  
require a printed copy until 1859.



# REPORT

OF THE

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

### TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR THE YEAR 1839....'40.

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At the Town Meeting held on Monday, April 6th, the Report of the School Committee for the past year being read, it was voted that the Report be printed, and a copy delivered to each family in town.

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[Printed at the Waltham Press.]



## REPORT.

The Committee feel unable, at the present time, to give so exact a report of the state of the Schools as they could wish, and as might perhaps be expected of them, owing to the circumstance, that but a part of them have yet closed. They will not attempt to give a detailed account of each school, which would be alike tedious and unprofitable. But they will say of them generally, that there appears to have been on the part of the Teachers, an anxiety to do their duty to the best of their ability; and on that of the pupils, as great a degree of improvement as in any former year. Of the Winter Schools, only two have yet closed. That in the North District, from the good order, attention, and generally worthy appearance of the School, whenever the Committee visited it, and its satisfactory examination at the close, received their unanimous approbation. That in the West District, in consequence of some difficulties with a number of the scholars, creating dissatisfaction on the part of several persons in the district, it seemed advisable to the Committee to bring to a close,—only two weeks, however, before its time would naturally have expired. It ought to be added, that in this instance, no peculiar fault was attached to the Teacher. The two schools now in operation, so far as the Committee are able to judge, are in a respectable condition.

The Committee feel it their duty to represent to the town, the manner in which the money granted for the purchase of apparatus, has been expended. In the selection of articles, the most proper, and which would be likely to secure the greatest amount of good, they found they had no enviable task before them. What they did, was done not without much consultation and careful inquiry, both as to the apparatus that might be the most useful, and the most reasonable terms on which it could be procured. They finally made purchase of the following articles:—

Pneumatic Apparatus,	- - - -	\$37
Chemical,	- - - -	25
Orrery,	- - - -	8
Tellurium,	- - - -	6
Globes—3	- - - -	12
Thermometers—4	- - - -	5
State Maps—4	- - - -	7

\$100

By distributing these articles among the different schools, and by exchanges from one to another, the advantage to be derived from them has been made as general as possible. That all might have an opportunity of examining the apparatus, an invitation was extended to the people of the



town, together with the pupils of the different schools, to meet at the Town Hall on the evening of the 2d of April, to hear some explanation upon the same. The full attendance on this occasion, was as gratifying to the Committee, as honorable to the inhabitants of the place. The Committee cannot leave this subject, without congratulating the town upon this valuable accession to the means of improvement in our schools. At the same time, they would express the wish, that the branches which this apparatus is intended to illustrate, might be more generally attended to; believing, as they do, that it would have a tendency to raise the standard of our schools, and give them an additional interest.

One fault, which the Committee have observed in some of the schools during the past season, a want of strict discipline, they would take the liberty to particularize. They feel the more confidence in doing it, as they believe it arises from the prevailing public sentiment in regard to the management of a school—rather than from any thing blamable in the teachers themselves. They rejoice, with every friend to the young, and to the welfare of the community generally, that all the barbarities of “the district school,” as it was, have met with their just condemnation—they are glad that the rod and the rule, as formerly applied, are no longer regarded as essential to intellectual advancement—that moral influence, and an appeal to honor, have taken the place of stern command, and brutal punishment. But at the same time they would add, that doing away with all physical force, as the teacher now, by the public sentiment, if not by his own inclination, is compelled to, he more than ever demands the friendly co-operation of the parents.—They ought to know how withering to all influence of his, is the merest word that falls from them, derogatory to his character or ability. If his exertions are commendable, the child should know it from the lips of the parent; if in any thing he fails, let it be made known to the proper authorities, and the proper remedy may be applied. Every word of commendation gives the teacher an influence, that can only be exerted for good; every one of an opposite character, gives the pupil a power that must be fraught with evil, and evil only to himself and others.

At the final examination of some of the schools, there has been found a disposition among a number of the scholars to absent themselves on that day. A practice so discouraging, to the teacher, and displaying so little feeling, even of common justice on the part of those in fault, deserves to be frowned upon by every friend to the faithful instructor, and to the advancement of our schools. The Roman matron, when asked for her jewels, pointed to her children; the teacher can only do the same; and to be deprived of these,



at the very moment when it is his highest ambition to display them, is an act of injustice that ought not to be tolerated.

Another deficiency they feel bound to notice, is the want of interest manifested by the parents as to the condition of the school. No one not intimately acquainted with the subject, can justly appreciate the influence that external circumstances exert over the character of a school. But of all external influences, the interest of the parent, shown by his frequent visits, or at least by his attendance at the final so examination, is by far the most powerful. This idea has often been brought forward, that nothing but a sense of its vast importance should have induced its repetition here; and it shall be left with the expression of the hope—that the few who already feel an interest in this subject, may use their influence that this interest become more general.

The inequality in numbers between the Centre and West schools, seems to demand a new division of districts, which the Committee would respectfully propose to the consideration of the town.

It is respectfully requested that the above suggestions may meet with the attention their importance seems to demand; believing, as the Committee do, that a regard to them will give our schools a character of which the town may well be proud.

All of which is respectfully submitted by the Committee.

WM. WARREN,  
BELA GREENWOOD,  
GEO. MATCHETT,  
EDMUND RICE, JR.,  
JOSIAH RUTTER.



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*3d.* **REPORT**

*4358. 5*

OF THE

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

OF THE

**TOWN OF BRIGHTON,**

**For 1840-41.**

*Apr 1841.*



CAMBRIDGE PRESS:  
METCALF, TORRY, AND BALLOU.



## R E P O R T .

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IN conformity with the requisitions of the laws of this Commonwealth, the School Committee of Brighton submit the following Report, for the year 1840 – 41.

The amount appropriated for the support of Public Schools, at the Annual Meeting in 1840, was \$1000 ; being \$237 less than that of the year preceding.

The number of persons between four and sixteen years of age belonging to the town on the first day of May last, as taken by the assessors, was 321. The amount appropriated being divided, gave to each of said persons \$3 11, which was apportioned to the several School Districts, according to the number of scholars in each, as follows ;

To the Centre District, 118 scholars,				\$367 60
East	"	74	"	230 53
North	"	66	"	205 61
West	"	63	"	196 26

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Making in all,	321 scholars,	\$ 1000 00
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In addition to the appropriation by the town, there was received from the State the amount of \$40 08, which was divided equally among the several districts.

The amount paid for private school instruction within the year, according to the best information your Committee have been able to obtain, was about \$650. It is worthy of remark, that no private schools were kept during the winter terms of the public schools, the past season.

During the year, the public schools have been kept, in the aggregate, forty-three and a half months ; to wit, fourteen and



a half months by male teachers, and twenty-nine months by females. The schools have been visited by one or more of your committee forty times, and it is believed, with few exceptions, a comparison of them with those of preceding years would exhibit them as having attained to at least as high a degree of improvement, during the past year, as in any former one. In the centre district, two schools have been kept nine months each. In the summer term, each was kept six months, by female teachers.

In the winter term, each school was kept three months, one by a male teacher, the other by a female. In the school kept in the district school-house, the average attendance in the summer term was twenty-five ; in the winter term, fifty ; the pupils attending this school were from seven to sixteen years of age. The Juvenile School, kept under the town-hall, was attended by pupils under seven years of age ; average attendance in summer, thirty, in winter, fifty. The winter term of this school was kept in part by the aid of individual contribution, and a few of the pupils were admitted from other districts. The summer school kept in the district school-house evinced a good degree of improvement, and the winter school, kept by a male teacher, when we consider the very limited term of its duration, showed a successful determination on the part of the teacher to impart to his pupils a thorough knowledge of the several branches of study, as far as the time admitted of their being pursued. In the Juvenile School, it is believed, the improvement was such as to elicit the commendation of the parents and friends of the pupils. The good order, attention, and lively interest in their studies, exhibited by so large a number of small children at the examinations, appeared to be very gratifying to an unusually large number of visitors.

The school in the west district was kept five months in the summer term by a female teacher, and three and a half months in the winter term by a male teacher. The schools in this district, through both terms were conducted in a very able and



efficient manner, and their examination was highly gratifying to your committee, and it is believed that their improvement in the various studies pursued was very satisfactory to the district. The average attendance in the summer term was nineteen ; in the winter term, thirty-five.

The east school was kept four months in the summer term by a female teacher, and four months in the winter by a male teacher. Average attendance in the summer term, forty-two ; in the winter term, fifty.

The schools, at the several visitations of your Committee, appeared to be well conducted ; and, without disparagement to other schools, your Committee would remark, that the schools in this district have uniformly exhibited a specimen of good order, neatness, and attention to study, worthy of commendation. A strong interest in the welfare of public schools seems to pervade this district, that infuses a spirit and energy into them of the highest importance, and which contributes very much to their success.

The summer term of the school kept in the north district was commenced without the knowledge of your Committee, and consequently without a previous examination of the teacher. The appearance of the school on the first visitation indicated to the Committee, that the best course to be pursued would be, to dismiss the teacher. Another teacher was provided, but with not much better success. At the final examination, no notice was given the Committee until the afternoon of the day, on which the school was to close, and but one member of the Committee was present, who reported, that the appearance of the school was such as to do *no honor*, either to the *teacher* or the *pupils*.

Your committee visited the winter school of said district within the first fortnight after its commencement, although no official information had been given them of it, nor had the teacher been examined. The *elements* of a good school were discoverable, accompanied, however, by evidence of the effect of bad management at former terms. On subsequent visits, a



disregard for neatness, good order, and proper regulations on the part of the teacher was manifested. But as the pupils generally seemed to be making considerable progress in their studies, and as the term was somewhat advanced, it was not thought advisable to discontinue the school. It should be observed, in justice to the teacher, that the number of scholars belonging to the school was about sixty, made up of pupils from the ages of three to eighteen years, many of them having previously acquired habits of insubordination, incompatible with that sense of honor and duty, so necessary to the preservation of good order, without an appeal to coercive measures. Hence the school, under the present general feeling of aversion to corporal punishment, must necessarily be a difficult one to manage. Hence, too, the importance of a friendly coöperation on the part of parents in aid of the teacher, and hence the still greater necessity of a thorough knowledge, on the part of persons chosen to select and employ teachers, of the capacity of such teachers for governing a school, before engaging them. Each school district is a body corporate, invested with full powers to raise money for the building and repairing of school-houses, unless the town by vote assume the charge. Prudential committees, by a vote of the town, at the annual town-meetings, are authorized to select and employ teachers in their several districts ; in which case, by a recent act of the legislature, they may consist of three persons ; such teachers, to be subject to an examination by the standing school committee, to ascertain their literary and moral qualifications. The prudential committees are the agents or representatives of the districts, from which they are chosen, and are amenable to such district for the strict performance of their duty. On them alone is devolved the duty of employing persons to act as *moral* guardians of our children during the most important period of their lives. How important is it, then, that they inform themselves fully and satisfactorily of this prerequisite in an instructor before engaging him. True, it may be said, that the standing com-



mittee are the *legal*, and should be competent judges of the moral as well as the literary qualifications of teachers. But it will readily be perceived, that with respect to the former qualification, the committee have, in general, no means of judging, except through the recommendations of the friends of the teacher, and in many cases little reliance is to be placed upon such recommendations. Frequently, too, the committee are not notified of the engagement of the teacher till the evening preceding, or the very morning, assigned for the commencement of the school, and *sometimes* not at all. Too often, it is feared, is the office of prudential committee accepted for the purpose of bestowing the important trust of an instructor of our children upon some one having a claim on the agent, by affinity or otherwise, without any regard for the interest of the district. And how little attention is paid by the inhabitants of the districts themselves to the importance of this responsible office. It is believed, that with few exceptions, a very small number of the qualified voters attend the annual meetings of their districts, and to this limited number the remainder are willing to confide the appointment of an agent to select for them a person to superintend the moral and intellectual culture of the rising generation. What parent would introduce into his family an assistant, to aid him in the formation of the habits and manners of his offspring, without a full knowledge of his qualifications for the trust? How strictly and anxiously will that assistant be watched, and how cheerfully will the parent render him all the aid in his power, to encourage him in his laborious task. And is not the public school teacher as worthy of our confidence, our sympathy, and our charity, if need be, as the private tutor in our families? These suggestions are not intended to be applied as reflections upon the manner, in which the onerous and responsible duties of district committees have been performed hitherto; but, if possible, to awaken the minds of parents to a knowledge of the necessity, on their part, of increased individual exertion.



Your Committee feel compelled again to advert with reluctance to the practice, adopted by some persons, of descanting upon the conduct and qualifications of instructors, in the presence of the pupils attending their school. A single unguarded expression, derogatory to the teacher, uttered in the presence of a pupil of one of the schools, having been communicated to the school near its commencement for the last winter term, effected an influence, which was counteracted with so much difficulty, that it proved a source of extreme annoyance and anxiety to a very able and efficient teacher; and would inevitably have been fatal to the school, under less judicious management.

Your Committee have found almost invariably, that those persons who are least acquainted with the interior regulations of a school, and who are most negligent in regard to the regular and punctual attendance of their children, are the first to complain; and that the grounds of those complaints, in general, are derived from *ex parte* statements, coming from pupils attending the schools. Were these complaints made the subject of investigation by the proper authorities, such a remedy might be applied as the circumstances should require. But when they are made, as is too often the case, the basis of unfounded and malicious reports, alike derogatory to the character of the instructor, and detrimental to good order and obedience in the school, no extenuating plea will mitigate the culpability of the persons who assist in their propagation.

Your Committee cannot, in justice to teachers and to themselves, suffer this occasion to pass, without referring to the want of interest, manifested by the parents and guardians of children for the schools, while in operation. Without the friendly aid and coöperation of parents, no instructor can perform his duties with that cheerful confidence in the ultimate success of his efforts, so necessary to the efficient management and satisfactory termination of his school. He cannot perform his duty with alacrity and zeal, without realizing in his progress, that his exertions meet with a corresponding sympathy on the part of his employers.



A more frequent visitation of the schools by parents is again urged upon their consideration. Nothing tends more to encourage an instructor in his arduous and trying profession, than the countenance and support of those most interested in his success. And in no way can this interest be evinced so beneficially, as by frequent personal visitations on the part of parents. An introduction thus established, will enable them to cultivate a mutual and reciprocal understanding of each other's views in relation to the best methods of instruction, and should any difficulty arise between the teacher and pupils, a true explanation of the circumstances attending it might be elicited, which would, in most cases, lead to a friendly adjustment. A generous regard and sympathy on the part of parents for the feelings of a teacher should always be cultivated ; he should be a welcome visitor to their houses, and made one of the social circle, and the children should be made to feel, that none are more gladly received.

Your Committee would respectfully call the attention of the town to the consideration of the expediency of hiring a lot of ground, in connexion with that on which the centre school-house is located, for a play-ground for the pupils. Nothing is better established in modern school improvements, than the importance of a dry, airy, and sufficiently large play-ground for recreation, and when convenient, such ground should be shaded with trees.

It is feared we have yet to learn, that the physical education of our children is of as much importance as that of the moral and intellectual.

Your Committee would also recommend a new division of the school districts, or that an additional school-room be provided for the centre district, the number of pupils being too large to be accommodated in one house, as the houses are now constructed. They would also recommend, that alterations, similar to those about being made in the school-house in the centre district, be extended to all the others.

Your Committee cannot conclude this Report without con-



gratulating the town upon the happy prospect of the introduction of a new and enlarged system of public school instruction. By the adoption of the recommendations of a committee, whose very able report was submitted at a recent town-meeting, an important change is contemplated. Your Committee have so frequently witnessed the ill effects arising from the admission of pupils from three to eighteen years of age into the same school, that they are convinced a separation of the smaller from the larger scholars will be most salutary. It is hoped, that no pecuniary or local considerations will arise to prevent the consummation of the measures already so auspiciously commenced. It is time the public mind should be awakened to the importance of Public Schools, in the most enlarged and liberal sense of the term.

The idea, derived from our mother country, of an aristocratical distinction, by which one-sixth of the community were to be educated at an expense vastly greater than that necessarily attending an equally good education for all, is fast being exploded. The argument, often assumed, that the morals of our children are better protected in private than in public schools, is contradicted by experience. But, admitting the doctrine to be correct, will the morals of the whole community ever be improved by educating a small part of our children, while the remainder are left to fall into irreclaimable habits of vice and crime? In our government, all have equal privileges of voting for our rulers, and of deciding as jurors in cases affecting our lives and property. Engender a spirit of envy and hatred in the mind of a child of a poor parent against another of a rich parent, and a long life will hardly extinguish it. And who will attempt to predict the station in life, which any child may occupy in the coming generation? Property is subject to constant fluctuations; the rich man of to-day is often the poor man of to-morrow. As well may mankind attempt to keep the particles of a liquid, in a state of ebullition, from rising from the bottom of the vessel containing it to the surface, and again descending to give



place to others, that are forced upward by the action of heat, as to keep society stationary. The educated and uneducated must come in contact as they arrive at the age of manhood; and if the uneducated and immoral predominate, the latter will seek among their own number for some master spirit as a leader, whose views of government and society will harmonize with theirs, while the remembrance of past degradation will have rendered them callous to feelings of justice, and will stimulate them to acts of revenge. The preservation, then, of our free institutions, and of our moral and social rights, depends upon the moral and intellectual education of *all*. The permanence of our happy system of government depends upon it; and just in proportion as it is fostered and encouraged, or neglected and degraded, vice and crime will preponderate over virtue and order.

All of which is submitted by

WM. WARREN,	} School
GEO. MATCHETT,	
BELA GREENWOOD,	
	Committee.

*Brighton, April 5, 1841.*

“At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Brighton, held April 5, 1841, the foregoing Report was read and accepted. And it was

“Voted, That a sufficient number of copies be printed for a distribution of one to each family in town.

“ATTEST, WM. WARREN, *Town Clerk.*”







3  $\frac{3}{1}$   
4th,  
REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE 495-8.5-

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1842.

---

CAMBRIDGE:  
METCALF, KEITH, AND NICHOLS,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1842.



*Brighton, April 11, 1842.*

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Brighton, qualified to vote in town affairs, held this day, it was

“16. VOTED, That article 10th, in relation to hearing reports of Committees be taken up, when Mr. Kelly from the Standing School Committee submitted and read the Annual Report of said Committee, when it was

“17. VOTED, That said Report be accepted, and that a sufficient number of copies be printed for a distribution of one to each family in town.

Attest,

WM. WARREN, *Town Clerk.*



## REPORT.

---

THE School Committee of Brighton, in compliance with the requisition of the law, submit the following Report for the current year.

In addition to the sum of \$ 2,000, voted by the town at the annual meeting in 1841, there has been received from the State, the sum of \$ 57.27, nearly all of which has been expended, agreeably to the laws of the Commonwealth, and as directed by a vote of the town.

The number of persons belonging to the town on the first day of May last, between the ages of four and sixteen years, was ascertained by the Assessors to be as follows, to wit, in the Centre District

	127
“ “ East “	57
“ “ North “	81
“ “ West “	54

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Total number	319
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In accordance with the expressed wish of the inhabitants of the town, at their annual meeting, the schools in the several districts have been taught by females, each ten months, including vacations ; the two High Schools being considered annual, with the usual vacations.

It will at once be perceived, that by establishing the



High School, an additional amount of duties has been thrown upon your Committee, which duties they have labored to perform faithfully, and to the best of their abilities.

With respect to the several District Schools, your Committee are happy in stating, that, for the most part, they have been highly gratified, as they have visited them from time to time, to witness the good order, neatness, and intelligent and happy appearance of the scholars ; evincing a kind and paternal government, accompanied by industry, persevering energy, and faithfulness on the part of the teachers, and a corresponding improvement of the pupils.

To speak in terms of unqualified praise with reference to any particular school, might savor of partiality and injustice, when all the teachers have labored so faithfully and with so much success ; notwithstanding this, your Committee feel it their duty to state, that, in their opinion, the Centre District School is somewhat behind the others in the march of improvement. This, perhaps, is chiefly owing to changing teachers, the necessity arising from ill health on the part of two of the three, who have had charge of the School the past year.

The Juvenile School, kept under the Old Town Hall, is not referred to in these last remarks. The improvement and condition of that School deserves, in the opinion of your Committee, the highest commendation.

The whole number of different scholars, that have attended the male department of the High School, has been 73 ; the average attendance, 34. This School, at the several visitations of your Committee, has given uniform evidence of ability and fidelity in the teacher, and of good order and attention in the scholars. There has been a constant effort to impress on the minds of the pupils, the



necessity of cultivating habits of decorum, and of subordination to wholesome laws, and of fixing firmly in their minds those principles of sobriety and virtue, which should prepare them to become respected and useful citizens in the community. And in general, the deportment of the School has been such as to reflect the highest credit on the lads, and honor on the teacher.

At the closing examination, the School gave pleasing evidence that the time and money had not been vainly expended. In all the exercises, a degree of thoroughness and intelligence, and in some of the branches, a decided superiority was manifested, which your Committee and other gentlemen present thought they had seldom seen equalled.

In the female department of the High School, the whole number of pupils in attendance has been 63; average attendance, 36.

Your Committee have observed, in all their visits to this School, the most entire devotion on the part of the teacher, to the intellectual, moral, and social welfare of the young ladies under her charge; and the unusually large number of visitors present at the examination, shows the deep and increasing interest felt in the success and improvement of that School, and is perhaps of itself a higher compliment than any which your Committee can add in commendation of its value. Such a course of education cannot fail to have a most beneficial and decided bearing on the future welfare of the pupils, and on the influence which the female mind and character, thus happily trained, is destined to exert on society.

Your Committee would congratulate the town on the increasing attention bestowed on the health and physical comfort of our schools, as shown in the improvements



made the past year in some of our school houses, especially in the West District, where, in addition to the improvements made by the town, the inhabitants of the District, by voluntary effort, deposited around the house a large quantity of gravel, to render the situation dry and comfortable. A bell has also been added gratuitously. Besides all this, there was raised about \$ 30, and a fine set of the Common School Apparatus procured. Also two sets of the Juvenile Library, of twenty-four volumes, published by the Board of Education. A neat and convenient Book Case was made and presented by one gentleman advanced in years, an evidence of the deep and increasing interest felt by all in the education of the young.

In connexion with these remarks, your Committee would beg leave to call the attention of the town to a resolution of the Legislature for 1842, which is as follows ;

*“Resolved, That the sum of fifteen dollars, to be taken from the school fund, be, and the same is, hereby appropriated to every school district in the Commonwealth, to be expended in books for a School District Library, and that the Treasurer pay said sum, for said purpose, to the order of the Mayor of every city, and the Selectmen of every town, for each and every school district within the same, which shall have produced evidence of having raised and appropriated fifteen dollars or more for the same object.”*

Your Committee would by no means be understood, by the foregoing remarks, to convey the idea, that any of our schools have as yet attained to that degree of perfection and usefulness, which should be desired and expected. They believe that a much higher standard of excellence is not only desirable but attainable, and they look forward with confidence and hope to the time, as not far distant,



when our system shall be so far perfected, that Brighton shall not suffer in comparison with any of her neighbors in the excellence of her schools, and all those moral and intellectual advantages, which invite and promote so rapid an increase of valuable population, and of wealth, in all the towns around our metropolis. She has made a noble beginning, and your Committee are firm in the belief, that the experiment made the past year should be persevered in, as the best that has yet been devised. The advantages, even in a pecuniary point of view, are too obvious to be overlooked or mistaken by any one, who will take the trouble to reflect upon them, and observe their effects in the prosperity of other towns, already referred to.

Shall we again mingle in one confused, and often turbulent and ungovernable crowd, all ages, and of both sexes, of our children and youth in our district schools ; where the teacher, though he may be compelled to ride upon the whirlwind, is too often unable to direct the storm ?

In a republican community, mind and morals rise or sink *en masse*. The learned, the wealthy, the refined, and the virtuous, must elevate the illiterate, the indigent, the vulgar, and the vicious, or the latter will drag society down to a common level with themselves.

Talent and opportunity to rise, will ever gain the ascendancy in times of popular excitement. The influence of wealth is uncertain, and the power and advantages, which it confers, are mere contingences. Those minds that have shaken nations, have often arisen from poverty and obscurity, to ride "rough shod" over the necks of their fellow-beings, when passion and power has been unrestrained by the force of education, morality, and virtue. It is to her schools, that New England is indebted for her high character and position. Opening their doors



alike to all, they sow broadcast, over the face of society, those seeds of learning and virtue, which constitute, in their growth, her chief glory and strength. From these fountains issue the streams, that must wash out her moral and political stains.

As the rich and the poor, the virtuous and the vicious, the vulgar and the refined, must and will meet and mingle, shall they not be educated in such a manner as to best promote the welfare of all through life ; where the rich man's son may learn, before it is too late, that he is to be trained up for those active scenes of life, where the most energetic, the most industrious, and the most deserving will take the lead ; where the poor man's child may learn, that if he outstrip his fellows in the race of intellectual and moral excellence, the prize of distinction and reward will be his ; and where all classes may take lessons, which they must sooner or later learn, in republican equality ?

Our rights and liberties must be supported by the intelligence and virtue of the people ; not by arbitrary power, enforced by servile bayonets. Every well-educated boy becomes an armed citizen, alike interested in the protection of the rich man's wealth, the poor man's liberties, and the peace of all, in the times of those outbreaks, which have so often happened in communities under popular governments, to their overthrow and ruin.

WM. WARREN,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
J. S. KELLY,		
B. GREENWOOD,		

For the Committee,

J. S. KELLY, *Secretary.*



5th.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1843.

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CAMBRIDGE:

METCALF, KEITH, AND NICHOLS,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1843.



*Brighton, April 10, 1843.*

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Brighton, qualified to vote in town affairs, held this day, the General School Committee, through their Secretary, Mr. J. S. Kelly, submitted their Annual Report, which was read, and it was

*Voted*, That said Report be accepted, and that a sufficient number of copies be printed for the distribution of one to each family in town.

Attest,

WM. WARREN, *Town Clerk.*



## REPORT.

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IN compliance with the requisitions of the law, the Board of School Committee offer the following Annual Report.

The amount of money, appropriated last year for the support of Schools in Brighton, was \$ 2,000, which has been expended as per Auditor's Report.

The number of persons in town on the first day of May last, between the ages of four and sixteen years, was ascertained by the Assessors to be as follows :

In the Centre District	120
“ “ West “	76
“ “ North “	81
“ “ East “	57
Total	334

Of which 164 were males, and 170 females.

The number in the North and East Districts, as compared with last year, remained the same.

In the Centre District there were 7 less, and in the West 21 more, than last year.

Your Committee have endeavoured to perform their duties, as guardians of the Schools, with fidelity and to the best of their abilities. They have visited the different Schools, in the aggregate, over one hundred times ; and they are happy in being able to report, that they have uniformly observed, on the part of all the teachers, a disposition to do all in their power to promote the moral and intellectual welfare of the pupils under their respective charge. The success, which has attended their efforts, has been various, though *generally* satisfactory to the Committee.



The male department of the High School has been conducted with ability and fidelity. The general good order and decorum of the young men and lads have been, with some exceptions, highly commendable, and reflect honor on them and credit on their teacher. The exercises before the Committee, at their several visits, have been evidently such as to show the School as it really was, and not with an attempt to make a display ; — a fact worthy of notice, because, where the conduct of a teacher and his management are characterized by frankness and integrity of purpose, the effect cannot fail to be highly beneficial in its influence on the morals of our youth in this age of deceit and duplicity.

In the several studies pursued, the same degree of thoroughness and intelligence has been manifested which was mentioned in the Report of last year. Many of the pupils are becoming considerably advanced in some of the branches of study they have been pursuing. Notwithstanding this, the Committee cannot avoid expressing the wish, that there may be more enthusiasm and interest excited among the scholars, and more attention paid to, and a desire excited for, an extended and scientific course of studies.

At the close of the Fall term, the teacher of the female department of the High School tendered her resignation of the office, which was accepted with regret by the Committee, knowing, as they did, the great difficulty of procuring any one to fill a station of so much usefulness. And it is with pleasure they bear testimony to her successful devotion to the intellectual, moral, and social welfare of her school.

The Committee spared no pains to obtain a suitable person to supply the vacancy, and engaged a young lady for the remainder of the year, recommended to them from impartial sources of the highest respectability ; and they can cheerfully confirm those testimonials, from personal observation of the energetic, thorough, and successful manner in which she discharged her arduous duties. The Committee were well aware of the embarrassments of a teacher in her situation, and the difficulty of securing the confidence and affection of pupils so deservedly attached to her predecessor.

In addition to the common English branches, there have



been taught, in one or both of the departments of the High School, the Latin, French, and Italian languages, and some of the higher branches of Mathematics, Astronomy, Philosophy, &c.

Your Committee would, however, take the liberty to remark, that, while they would by all means encourage the study of the languages by such as may desire it, or expect to derive benefit therefrom, yet they deem it of far more importance to devote the time and attention of both teachers and pupils to the practical sciences ; to the acquisition of such knowledge as shall chiefly tend to develope and strengthen their physical, moral, and intellectual powers, which must be exercised in the social, civil, and business relations of life.

The Centre School, especially at the closing examination, evinced entire devotion on the part of the teacher ; and the pupils in their exercises, particularly the reading, acquitted themselves in a manner highly creditable. The Committee were particularly pleased with the neatness and improvement manifested in the writing-books, far surpassing what is usually seen in children so young.

The West School still continues to be happily and ably conducted, and has made a good degree of improvement. The government has been kind and parental. At the closing examination a goodly number of parents and friends were present, thus tending greatly to encourage the teacher and her pupils. The Committee hope, however, that such an expression of interest and sympathy may serve to stimulate the teacher to more energy in governing and more thoroughness in teaching, which cannot fail to make the School in that District one of the first of that class in town.

For no School have the Committee felt more solicitude than for that in the North District. In justice to the teacher, they bear testimony to the deep interest she has manifested for her charge, and the assiduity and fidelity with which she has labored to fulfil the duties of her station. The Committee were highly gratified with the examination. The scholars acquitted themselves well in their various exercises, and were not behind the other Primary Schools in town. There has not been, however, that good order manifested at all times



which is desirable. The Committee think they can readily account for much of this deficiency by the uncomfortable and inconvenient condition of the room, the large proportion of very young children in the School, and last, but not least, it seemed evident to the Committee, that the courage of the teacher had been in some measure subdued, and her energies paralyzed, by a consciousness on her part, that she was not cheered and sustained in her arduous and perplexing duties by the approbation and sympathies of some of the parents.

A considerable portion of the East School has been composed of pupils over ten years of age. Good order and neatness prevailed, and they acquitted themselves at the examination very much to their credit. How the *younger* portion of the School would have appeared the Committee were unable to judge to any considerable extent, so many of them being absent, having "become wearied by attending school through so long a term." Judging from the visits of your Committee at other times, they would doubtless have appeared to as good advantage as children of the same age in the other Schools in town.

The Juvenile School, in the Centre District, continues to give entire satisfaction to the Committee, and approaches nearer to perfection than any other School which has ever come under their notice. Its influence cannot but be happy to the children who enjoy its advantages.

Brighton has the honor of standing at the head of all the towns in the Commonwealth in point of liberality in the cause of education, as may be seen by reference to the Sixth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Board of Education.

When we recollect, in addition to what she has done for her Schools, the public Lyceum that has been sustained, the last two winters, by individual contribution, in which all the Lectures have been free to every inhabitant of the town; when we also take into view the fact, that she has been surpassed by no other town in the Commonwealth in her efforts to promote the cause of good morals, and in her works of public improvement, it is hoped that no steps will hereafter be taken to tarnish her brightness.

It is earnestly recommended by all your Committee, that



our system of High Schools be maintained, believing, as they do, that the present is the best that has been devised. It is ever easier to pull down than to build up, and, before we lay violent hands on what has cost the town so much to rear, we ought at least to be sure of an equivalent. Let us not rashly deprive Brighton of the fame she has so nobly earned, or disappoint the hopes of the rising generation by snatching from their lips the cup of knowledge we have thus proffered them.

Your Committee are aware, that our Schools are not yet what they should be in all respects. "Where much is given much is required," and much ought of right to be expected. Abuses should be speedily corrected and deficiencies supplied. Committees, parents, guardians, and teachers should act in concert. The compensation we allow should command able and efficient teachers in every School. And your Committee beg leave to express the hope, that those, whose duty it is to engage teachers, will aim to secure the best, without fear or favoritism.

This subject was so fully discussed in the Report of your Committee of 1840-41, and also the necessity of the co-operation of the parents, that the attention of the public is again invited to that Report as containing many useful hints which should not be forgotten.

The subject of a new division of the town into School Districts, there spoken of, your Committee would again present to your notice.

There are also other subjects, connected with the intellectual, moral, and physical welfare of our children, worthy of your consideration, the discussion of which might extend this Report to an immoderate length.

Your Committee cannot forbear to present one serious evil connected with most of our School-Rooms, and which may be, to a great extent, obviated with trifling expense. It is the want of a supply of pure, fresh air. We stint our children of that which costs us nothing, for "God has poured it out by skies full." The extent of this evil, and its effects on the health of the children, may be readily perceived by spending an hour in one of our close District-School rooms,



during the session of the School, when the weather requires the doors and windows to be closed. Even our beasts of burden would pine and become unhealthy in such an atmosphere.

This subject has been ably treated in the Report of the Secretary of the Board of Education above referred to. A copy of that Report has been sent to each School, to be deposited in the School-room for the use of the inhabitants. There has also been deposited a most excellent work, entitled "The School and School-master," generously presented to each public School and Board of School Committee in the Commonwealth, by Martin Brimmer, Esq., Mayor of Boston.

They are well worthy of the attentive perusal of every friend of education. While the Committee gratefully acknowledge the donation of this valuable work from an entire stranger, they would improve this opportunity of distinctly recommending to all the Districts the valuable Libraries which are published expressly for their use. They contain a fund of knowledge which cannot fail to improve the rising generation. Different sets might be purchased, and then be interchanged in the several Districts.

Your Committee cannot better close the Report than by a quotation from the book presented by the gentleman above alluded to, "that one chief end for which our Schools are instituted is, to prevent crime, by putting an end to moral ignorance and depravity";

"Needful instruction; not alone in arts  
Which to his humble duties appertain,  
But in the lore of right and wrong, the rule  
Of human kindness, in the peaceful ways  
Of honesty and holiness severe."

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN R. ADAMS,  
WM. WARREN,  
GEORGE R. HICHBORN,  
J. S. KELLY,

} *Superintending  
School Committee.*



6th.

# REPORT

OF THE

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF

BRIGHTON,

APRIL, 1844.

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CAMBRIDGEPORT:

P. L. & H. S. COX, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

1844.



THE

AMERICAN COLLEGE

OF



# REPORT.

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THE School Committee of Brighton, in conformity with the requisition of the Laws of Massachusetts, submit the following

## REPORT:

The appropriation of \$2,000, made at the annual meeting in 1843, has not been wholly expended, in consequence of the sickness of the Teacher of the Female Department of the High School, making it necessary to suspend that school before the term had fully expired.

The amount drawn from the State School Fund the past year, has been \$46,21.

In addition to this, the State has fulfilled its stipulations for District School Libraries, which, in connection with your liberal appropriations at the annual meeting in 1843, has enabled the several prudential committees to procure Libraries for all the Districts in town.

The Committee have, during the last year, subscribed for the Common School Journal at the expense of the town, for the use of the Teachers, believing that such a work in the hands of the Teachers and parents, cannot fail to have a most beneficial influence on the schools, abounding as it does, with valuable information and useful hints on the subject of education and the *art of teaching*. In this connection the Committee beg leave to call the attention of the public,



especially parents and Teachers, to the Report of the Hon. Horace Mann, just published in the Journal above referred to.

Mr. Mann has just returned from a tour of several months in different countries of Europe, made at his own expense, for the purpose of visiting the schools in the Old World, and to enable him still more to elevate the condition of those in his own Commonwealth. Copies of the Report have been sent for each District in town, which should be bound and deposited in the District Libraries, to be read by all.

The number of persons in town on the first day of May last, between the ages of four and sixteen years, was ascertained by the Assessors to be as follows :

In the Centre District,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128
“ West	“	-	-	-	-	-	-	70
“ North	“	-	-	-	-	-	-	99
“ East	“	-	-	-	-	-	-	62
<hr/>								
Whole number,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	359

Each School has been visited at the commencement and close of the several terms, and at such other times by your Committee as the law requires.

The Centre District School has been taught the past year by Miss Hannah E. Eastman. The average number of scholars has been 34. Whole number, 58.

The Committee have been interested in their visits to this School. The Teacher readily succeeded in gaining the affections and confidence of her pupils and in sustaining good order. Your Committee were pleased with the closing examination. A commendable proficiency in the several studies, alike creditable to the Teacher and the pupils, was manifested. Specimens of Drawing by some of the pupils were exhibited worthy of high commendation, and it is the opinion of your Committee that this branch might be introduced, to some extent, into all our schools, producing a most happy effect, by affording an amusing and useful employment to the younger portion of the children. It would enable them



to pass much of that time both pleasantly and profitably, which now hangs so *painfully* heavy upon them, during the unemployed hours of school,—if unemployed such children can indeed be kept while perched upon a hard board six hours in a day.

The Juvenile School in this District has been again taught by Miss Julia Warren. The Committee feel that too much praise cannot be bestowed on the unwearied fidelity and ability of the Teacher, and on the order and improvement of the children. This might be regarded as a model school; and the happy tact and success of the teacher should be aimed at in all our schools. A part of this School has been admitted from other Districts. The average number has been 31. Whole number, 68.

The School in the West District has been under the instruction of Miss Hannah A. Hoyt. This school has made great improvement the past season, especially during the last term. The Committee would particularly notice the recitations in Arithmetic, showing a thorough knowledge not only with the letter but the principles of the rule.

The recitations in Geography, History, Philosophy and also the exercises in Reading and Spelling were very satisfactory.

The order was excellent and showed that the Teacher governed from affection rather than fear. The average number of pupils has been 27. Whole number, 45.

The School in the North District has been taught by Miss Lucy Tilton. This School has been comparatively large, the average number being 42. Whole number 72.

This has been Miss Tilton's first effort in teaching, and the Committee take great pleasure in stating that her success has been most gratifying to her friends, and creditable, as it should be encouraging, to herself. The School appeared well. The discipline has been very much improved. Every



nothing indicated fidelity on the part of the Teacher and the various exercises were such as to reflect great honor on herself and pupils.

The East School has been taught by Miss Sophia A. Hall. This School is small, there being many families who have no children to send to any School, while a few go to the High School. Those who do attend this School have the peculiar advantage of not being neglected in the multitude.

All the children present seemed to have made good improvement, the younger portion particularly. The exercises in Arithmetic as exhibited by a performance on the black board, showed improvement and thoroughness. The other exercises were highly creditable to all concerned, and the Teacher has certainly merited great praise for her successful efforts. The Committee were especially gratified to hear that the faithful labors of their Teacher had been duly appreciated by the parents of the children. They must not omit to state however, that they thought they observed a disposition on the part of some of the larger lads to trespass upon the authority and dignity of the Teacher. The average number of scholars has been 21. Whole number 44.

The male department of the High School has again been under the charge of Mr. John Ruggles, jr. The average number of pupils through the year has been 42. Whole number, 89.

During the winter the number has been quite large. The general condition and character of the school has been much the same as last year. A new branch of study has been recently introduced, namely, the Revised Statutes, as abridged by Wedgewood. An acquaintance to some extent by our large scholars, with our laws, and a knowledge of the rights and duties of citizenship, your Committee deem of great importance, and approve the study; but they regret to observe evidence of carelessness and inaccuracy in the preparation of



the book which should be corrected, before they can recommend the work to general use in our schools.

In addition to the common English Branches, Philosophy, Astronomy, Chemistry, the higher branches of Mathematics and the Latin and French Languages have been taught in this school, the recitations and exercises in which were very satisfactory. The order was so good, it excited a regret that some of the lads, who could obey the rules of school, could not be induced to manifest more courtesy and good behaviour in the streets and other public places.

The Committee hope that parents and Teachers and all interested in the welfare of the young and the credit of the town, will unite their efforts to train up our youth a little more in the way they should go.

The female department of the High School has been taught by Miss Maria L. Eastman. She was selected by the unanimous vote of the Committee of last year, to fill an existing vacancy, and her services were retained until she was compelled to relinquish the school about six weeks since, from ill health. The duties of this, as well as of the male department, have been arduous. The school has been large, numbering in all, 66. The average number, 38.

In addition to the usual English Branches, there have been large classes in the higher branches of English Education; also, in the Latin, French, and Italian Languages. The classes in Arithmetic and Algebra, particularly, evinced thorough training; and the class in Quadratic Equation, deserves special commendation. The Reading was excellent. The Committee think that the art of Penmanship should receive more attention in that school, even if it be done at the expense of some of the other branches.

The necessity of suddenly closing the school, gave no opportunity for a public examination, as was intended; but it enabled the Committee to have a good opportunity of judging of its ordinary condition.



Your Committee have endeavored to discharge their duties without partiality and with promptness, both as it respects teachers and pupils. When complaints have come to us, through the teacher, we have always endeavored to investigate them promptly and fairly. We maintain that complaints with regard to children's conduct, should be made to the teacher first ; and if not satisfied with the explanation or decision from that source, it is then the duty of the Committee to interpose. In no case ought we to interfere between the parents and children and their teachers, except by way of appeal ; and when the affair comes within the sphere which public opinion or the law allows to the jurisdiction of Teachers and Committees.

If the School has been dismissed and the scholars have had sufficient time to reach their respective homes, who is responsible for their conduct in the streets and other public places, the Teacher and Committee, or the parents ?

Must the Committee settle the disputes of boys in the streets,—or be responsible for their conduct, when these boys are, or should be, under the control of their parents and guardians, and when no complaint has been lodged with the Teacher and submitted through him to the Committee ?

Your Committee have labored to impress upon the minds of the pupils the importance of correct principles and good conduct ; and have endeavored to aid the teachers in suppressing vulgar, obscene and profane language, and have charged them to watch very carefully over the morals of their respective Schools. For this purpose, they have unanimously recommended the reading of select portions of the Scriptures, not as a Class-book, but as the Statute-book of Heaven, presenting the highest source of pure morality and elevated conduct, with which all our youth should be familiar, and which in early life they ought to learn to revere.

It is matter for regret, that our children and youth are exposed to so many bad influences in some parts of our town.



The character and conduct of one class of those persons who are on *Monday* attracted to Brighton, are such, that our children cannot go to school without having their ears filled with obscene and profane language, which cannot fail to do harm to young minds. In addition to this, their very lives are often in danger from the teams which obstruct our sidewalks, and if they betake themselves to the street, they are, especially in the afternoon, in danger of being run over by the furious driving of intoxicated bipeds, (we cannot call them men without a blush,) who often manifest more brutality than the poor quadrupeds they are suffered to torture. This nuisance does not come from the inhabitants of this town, as has been before observed, but from those who are drawn here from abroad, and your Committee would respectfully inquire if it must be submitted to in silence !

Must the town of Brighton thus proclaim to the world that the morals, lives and limbs of her sons and daughters are nothing in comparison with the privilege of exhibiting in her streets a broken down horse and the drunken animal that rides him? Your Committee would respectfully suggest that a special police be appointed to clear the sidewalks and abate the nuisance, or that the Schools in the centre of the town be suspended on Monday, and taught all day on Saturday. In this case, the responsibility of taking care of the children will devolve upon the parents.

The Committee suggest that no essential change be made in our School system. We cannot afford to go backward in the cause of education. If indeed there are weighty objections to the High School, either as it regards the School itself or the expense, let those objections and causes of complaint be carefully examined and corrected. Let us alter, amend and improve, but not rashly abandon or destroy.

But what if the High School should be abandoned ! We shall then be thrown back upon the old District System,



where children of all ages are crowded into a small school-house, and under the care of Female Teachers for the summer and Male Teachers for the winter. Would this satisfy the inhabitants of Brighton?

There is another resort,—to have two Grammar Schools, one at the North District, the other at the Centre. But this would not be good economy; as we must in this case sustain two Male Teachers, instead of one, besides the expense of building a new School House in the North District.

We must adopt one of these plans or rely upon Select and Private Schools. But all cannot afford the expense of such schools. Lines would be drawn, in that case, such as ought not to exist in this community. The children of the poor ought to have the privilege of education as well as those of the rich; and the best guardianship which the Town can exercise over the youth is to see that they are *all* properly educated.

In the early settlement of this country it was enacted that every town which contained one hundred families should support a Grammar School, where boys could be fitted for the University.

Shall Brighton, after making liberal appropriations for the cause of education,—after having the honor of standing at the head of all the towns in the State for her liberal zeal in this matter,—after inviting others to reside here because her schools are in so good condition—at last publish to the world the painful fact that her zeal is gone—she has tried the experiment and abandoned it?

If any change is advisable, the Committee would respectfully suggest that the appropriations be made as usual, and that a judicious Committee be appointed to devise the best method by which the great object of such appropriations can be promoted. This is a matter in which the reputation of the town and the common good of our youth are concerned.



It is to be hoped that no local jealousy or pecuniary considerations will interpose and withhold the needed appropriations.

The High School cannot be at every man's door, — neither can the Church, or the Lyceum. As inhabitants of Brighton, there should be a oneness of interest in the great object of education. Anxious for the intellectual and moral culture of our children and youth, we should not forget the memorable words of one who now presides over Harvard University, — words, which should be written in letters of gold, not only on the classic walls of Cambridge, but upon every school house and fireside. “Human happiness has no perfect security but freedom, — freedom none but virtue, — virtue none but knowledge, — and neither freedom, nor virtue, nor knowledge, has any vigor or immortal hope, except in the principles of the Christian faith and in the sanctions of the Christian religion.”

JOHN R. ADAMS,	} <i>Superintending</i>
JOHN S. KELLEY,	
GÉORGE R. HICHBORN,	

*School Committee.*

*Brighton, April, 1844.*







ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TOWN OF BRIGHTON,  
FOR  
1844-45.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
METCALF AND COMPANY,  
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.  
1845.







7th.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

2875—

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1844-45.

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CAMBRIDGE:

METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1845.







## REPORT.

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THE Superintending School Committee submit to the citizens of Brighton the following Report for the current School year.

It is thought advisable that the Annual Report of the School Committee be made in future at the expiration of their term of office. Heretofore they have closed the Schools and made their Report, *after* their duties had properly ended by the choice of a new Board of Committee ; — that Committee having been chosen at the Town Meeting in March, a month previous to the time at which the Report has been offered.

Your Committee thought it not best, under all the circumstances, to examine and close the High School so early as the Saturday preceding the March meeting, *this year*. But they would earnestly recommend, that hereafter the School year thus begin and end with the political year of the Town ; and that henceforth the appropriation for the support of Schools be made at the annual March meeting.

As none of the District Schools have yet closed, they omit any special remarks upon the character and condition of any school.

It will be recollected, that, by the act for appropriating money for the support of Schools the current year, the sum of two thousand dollars was voted ; — one thousand for the High School, and one thousand for the District Schools, to be divided among them in proportion to the number of persons between the ages of four and sixteen years severally belonging thereto.



The numbers thus reported in May by the Assessors were as follows : —

In the Centre District	130
North     “	103
West     “	76
East     “	52
	<hr/>
Total	361

Dividing \$1000 by 361, gives  $2\frac{77}{100}$  dollars, nearly, per scholar ; or,

To the Centre District	\$ 360 $\frac{10}{100}$
North     “	285 $\frac{31}{100}$
West     “	210 $\frac{50}{100}$
East     “	144 $\frac{40}{100}$

For the special amounts disbursed, and for the manner of expending the money, the citizens are referred to the more proper source of information, — the forthcoming Auditors' Report.

On considering the condition and probable character of the High School, your Committee were, the last Spring, thoroughly impressed with the belief, that the interests of that School and of the Town would be promoted by uniting the two departments under one Principal, with suitable Assistant Teachers. With this object in view, they accordingly visited the best Schools in several of the neighbouring towns ; and the result of their observation confirmed the opinion, that such a change would be highly beneficial. Keeping in view the amount of our means, the material of which the schools must necessarily be composed, and the circumstance that both departments were already in the same building, and of course had ready facilities for communication, your Committee thought advisable that both sexes should attend in the same room, under suitable and strict regulations. The Selectmen were accordingly consulted, and permission was readily granted to make the necessary alterations in the adjoining School-rooms, by removing the partition wall. One spacious, finely ventilated hall is thus obtained ; and, in the opinion of your Committee, a decided advantage has already been realized, both as respects economy to the town, and especially the manners and deportment of the pupils, the general order, and the interest of the scholars in their studies.

Your Committee have also endeavoured to promote the interests of the Schools by holding monthly meetings with the Teachers through the Summer, for the purpose of mutual im-



provement, for learning and correcting abuses, and for devising such plans as might be found beneficial. They would recommend that the same course be continued by the succeeding Board. It should even be demanded of the Teachers, that they cultivate each others' acquaintance, for their own personal benefit and for the good of the Schools.

The Committee have also complied with the late law of the Commonwealth, which obliges them to ascertain and return to the Town Clerk the number of Births in town each year, and have found it to have been 57 for the year ending May 1, 1844.

Your attention is again respectfully called to a subject urged upon your notice in the Report of your Committee last year. It is the inconvenience, the corruption, and the peril to which our scholars, especially the females, in common with the public, are exposed in our streets on Mondays, — the days of the weekly Fair. The nuisance is grievous, — your Committee seek no soft words in which to deal with it. So generally is it understood and felt, they believe, both in its source and effects, that they forbear further comments ; — only adding that they have felt it their duty, at the request of many of the parents and guardians of the pupils, to suspend the High School, which is directly under their control, on Mondays ; and by continuing the school all day on Saturdays, to make up the hours thus withdrawn from the School term.

Your Committee would further recommend that henceforth the School or Academical Year, for the whole town, close on the Saturday previous to the annual March meeting ; — that all the Schools conform to this regulation ; — that the Report of the Committee be rendered at that meeting, at which their term of office rightfully expires, and, as stated above, that the money for the support of Schools for the year ensuing be then appropriated. Such a course will obviate many inconveniences and some embarrassments to the Committee in closing their annual duties. It will also afford time for a new Board of Committee to procure good Instructors, with more assurance and less trouble, than if compelled to wait till so late in the season, that most teachers have been engaged elsewhere. And last, but not least, it will enable our schools to commence with the opening political year.

One more subject your Committee would earnestly press upon the attention of parents and guardians, — the necessity, namely, of coöperation and sympathy on their part with the School Committee and Teachers. Some, to their own honor, to the great good of their children, and to the comfort of the Teachers, do their duty in this respect. Others, and far too many, seem to think their whole duty ended when they have chosen their Committee and allowed their children, it may be,



but occasionally to honor the teacher with their presence in the school room. Surely those who labor for others' good have often an ill-requited and ungrateful task to perform. The labors, the cares, the trials and responsibilities of the faithful Teacher, are, under the most favored circumstances, heavy enough. Of this parents may form some idea by reflecting on the labor and care of managing their own comparatively small number of children at home ; and by measuring the Teacher's task, "himself against a host," with their own. They should remember, that every thing does not depend on Committees, or Instructors, but that it remains their duty to coöperate with the Teacher, and this, too, for his encouragement and for the intellectual and moral advancement of the pupils. Parents should coöperate by visiting the Schools, by manifesting an interest in the studies of the children, and, above all, by a careful vigilance over their conduct and morals at all times, and especially when they are not under the immediate supervision of the Teacher.

Parents and Teachers cannot too carefully guard every avenue to the hearts of those entrusted to their care, against the inroads of vice. Corruption flows in upon them through many channels ;— from the contaminating influence of evil companions, from the perusal of immoral books, from bad example at home and abroad, and from countless sources to which the young are exposed. The purity of the young heart thus becomes early sullied, and the language and manners often most perverted and offensive.

Let not parents deceive themselves, and in the blindness of fond affection deem that their own loved ones will escape such influences. The moral disease may have made deep inroads upon the citadel of virtue before its ravages are discovered. Children are wise to learn evil, and often much wiser to conceal such knowledge from their parents than from the public eye. Let parents, committees, and teachers be watchful and jealous of the important charge committed to them, and aim to defend the hearts of the young with a panoply of virtuous principles, impregnable to the assaults of vice.

By order and in behalf of the Committee.

JOHN S. KELLY.

JOHN S. KELLY,	} <i>Superintending</i> <i>School Committee.</i>
JOHN R. ADAMS,	
FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	
Z. L. RAYMOND,	
GEORGE R. HICHBORN,	

*Brighton, March 3, 1845.*



## A SUPPLEMENT.

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A REPORT was made to the citizens of Brighton, at their annual meeting in March, by the Superintending School Committee, whose office expired at that time. It was not then in their power to make a full report, as to the whole number of pupils attending School, their average attendance, or their general appearance at the closing examinations. It devolves, therefore, on the present Committee, to add a Supplement to the Report submitted as above.

The whole number of persons in town on the 1st of May last, between the ages of four and sixteen, and the proportion in the different Districts will be found in the preceding Report.

The *Centre District School* was taught the last year by Miss Cornelia Hastings, assisted for twenty-four weeks by Miss Hannah J. Smith. Average attendance, 49. Whole number of different scholars, 96. A juvenile School has also been taught in this district at private expense by Miss Nancy B. White, in which the whole number of scholars was 25.

The *West District School* was taught by Miss Hannah A. Hoyt. Whole number, 68. Average, 45.

The *East District School* was taught by Miss Sophia A. Hall. Whole number, 45. Average, 26.

The *North District School* was taught for two terms by Miss Lucy Tilton, and for the remainder of the year by Mr. Abel Rice. Whole number, 67. Average, 46.

The *High School* has been taught by Mr. John Ruggles, Jr., assisted by Miss S. A. Davis. Whole number of different scholars, 162. Average, 80.

Your Committee would also report, that they have attended the examinations of the several Schools, and in general have found them satisfactory. In the High School there was a commendable improvement, especially in reading and general order. The only subject of regret was the limited time which was allotted to the examination of this School.



To obviate this in future, it is proposed that the whole day, instead of a part, shall be devoted to the examination of the High School. The Committee were gratified to see so many of the friends of the pupils present on that occasion, as well as at the District examinations. Their presence indicated an interest that cannot fail to be advantageous, both to the children and to the teachers.

It is not the design of the Committee to particularize the Schools by any comparisons that might seem invidious. They cannot allow this occasion to pass, however, without saying that it is a matter of high gratification to them to acknowledge, that, among the most successful female teachers in town, two have their homes with us.

The services of two of the teachers employed last year cannot be obtained for the coming year. One of them has been engaged in the same school for four successive years, and now leaves it with the united regrets of the parents, children, and Committee. We are happy to add that she will carry with her substantial tokens of the affection of her pupils and the gratitude of their parents.

In this connection, the Committee would add, that the condition of this and of the other Schools confirm their own opinion, that female Teachers are well adapted to the improvement of young minds. While arrangements are made for the instruction of the older pupils at the High School, it is their conviction that female teachers are of greater service in the District Schools, than teachers of the other sex. Independent of the difference in expense, the experiment in the *West District*, where there has been but one teacher for four years, is enough to satisfy your Committee, that the opinion they have now expressed is correct.

The Committee would renew the recommendation made by the former Board, that the several Schools be closed on the Saturday previous to the annual March meeting, and that the appropriation be made as by them advised. By adopting this course, regularity and uniformity will be secured to our Schools, and the necessity of an unseemly appendage in the form of a Supplement, as herewith submitted, will be dispensed with.

In behalf of the Committee.

JOHN R. ADAMS.

JOHN R. ADAMS,	}	<i>Superintending School Committee.</i>
FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,		
Z. L. RAYMOND,		

*Brighton, April 14, 1845.*



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

4358.5

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1845-46.



CAMBRIDGE:

METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1846.







# REPORT.

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THE School Committee of Brighton, in conformity with the laws of Massachusetts, submit the following

## REPORT.

Two thousand dollars were appropriated for Schools at the last annual meeting in this town. This has been increased by the addition of the appropriation from the State School Fund. For the manner in which these sums have been expended, we must refer you to the Auditor's account.

On the first day of May last, the number of children in town, between the ages of four and sixteen years, was reported by the Assessors as follows : —

In the Centre District	136
West      “	92
North     “	126
East      “	57
	<hr/>
Whole number	411

Of this number 199 were boys, 212 were girls.

Owing to the inequality of these Districts, two new Districts were organized during the latter part of the year, agreeably to the vote of the town passed at a meeting in April last.

The Centre District School has been taught by Miss Cornelia Hastings. For the first two terms, the whole num-



ber in attendance was 84. During the last term, owing to the formation of a new District, the average attendance was 40. This School sustains the high character which was given to it in the last Annual Report. The order was good, and the recitations were creditable both to the teacher and pupils. The classes in Arithmetic deserve special commendation. The writing-books exhibited neatness both within and without ; and this neatness, we are happy to add, was manifest in the children and in the schoolroom.

The West School was taught for two terms by Miss Sarah Stone, and for the last term by Miss Susan L. Holbrook. At the final examination, the Committee were gratified with the general appearance of the School. The reading was excellent, and the recitations in other departments showed the skill of the teacher and the industry of the pupils. The average number of scholars has been 34 ; whole number, 58.

The North District School has been taught, during the past year, by Miss Anna B. Wyman. This School has been very large. Whole number on the list at the examination, 60 ; present, 53.

At the close of the first two terms, the Committee were pleased to notice the manifest improvement of the School. Every thing indicated the ability of the teacher, and her love of her employment. At the closing examination, the recitations were good, but the discipline imperfect. The restlessness that was apparent can be attributed in part to the severity of the cold, from which all suffered who were present on that day, and in part to the example of some of the larger boys, who showed their need of sterner discipline. This fact confirms the opinion of your Committee, that such boys, whose age excludes them from the Primary Schools, ought to be under the care of the master of the High School, if they are qualified for that department, or in an intermediate School, which your Committee propose to recommend in this Report.

The School in the East District has been taught by Miss Frances Peabody. This School, as usual, has been small.



The whole number has been 38. Some have recently been taken from this School and assigned to the new School District lately organized in the northeast section of the town. At the examination, 25 scholars were present. This School ought to be among the best in town, as the teacher has it in her power to devote increased attention, where the pupils are few. There are some discouragements in this School, arising from the inconvenience of the schoolroom, and the necessity of a thorough repair. This subject has already engaged the attention of the fathers of the town, and without doubt the evil of which we speak will be remedied the ensuing year. Your Committee regret that they did not see more of the parents at the closing examination.

The School in the Northeast District, recently organized, has been taught by Miss Emeline Wellington. This School has been kept temporarily in a private house, and has suffered some inconvenience from the want of better accommodations. Though this is the first attempt of Miss Wellington in a public School, her success during this term shows that she can become eminent as a teacher. Whole number in attendance, 29 ; present at the examination, 22.

The School for the District lately detached from the Centre has been taught by Miss Nancy B. White. This School has been kept in a small room in the Town Hall. At the examination, 28 were present ; 34 have been connected with the School. Owing to the smallness of the room, only a few parents could avail themselves of the privilege of attending the closing examination. The Committee were gratified to perceive the fidelity of the teacher and the improvement of her pupils. In this School, and in two others, the Committee were pleased to notice the happy influence of music upon children. It gave variety to the exercises, it relieved the weariness of the children, while the sentiments of the songs were calculated, if remembered, to refine the social and moral feelings. The Committee cannot but hope that the custom which has been voluntarily introduced into some of the Schools,



of having each scholar recite daily a verse from the Book of Books, will be continued in after days, and prove the seed of immortal fruit.

The High School has been large. The whole number during the year, 158 ; the average, 79. The teachers are the same as reported last year, — Mr. John Ruggles, Jr., and Miss S. A. W. Davis. Your Committee have increasing satisfaction in speaking of this School. If any have had doubts of the expediency of such a School in distinction from District Schools, those doubts would have been dissipated, could they have witnessed the order of this School, and noticed the excellency of the reading, the accuracy of the recitations in Arithmetic, History, Philosophy, Latin, French, Algebra, and Geometry, and the beauty and finish of some of the written compositions. The number of the spectators was indicative of a general interest in the School, and their commendations at the close showed that their high hopes had not been disappointed.

The Committee improve this opportunity to say, that the visits of parents to the various Schools, at the examination and occasionally during the term, always exert an important influence upon the whole School. The sympathies of the children are enlisted ; they are stimulated to meet the expectations of anxious friends ; while the parents are quickened in their efforts to superintend the lessons of their children at home, and excited to do all in their power to enforce punctuality, industry, and a careful observance of the rules of the School. Your Committee have invariably found it to be true, that those Schools are the best, where the parents signify their interest by their presence at the examination ; and the poorest are those where the teacher and pupils are not cheered by the presence of the parents, who, above all, should express the deepest interest.

Though the Schools have manifested a commendable improvement during this year, yet there are some things which



are necessary to the perfection of the system, and which the Committee would respectfully recommend.

The High School is very large, and it will soon be larger still. At present, *age* is the only rule of admission. This rule was adopted, at first, in order to relieve the Primary Schools, which are under the care of female teachers. But it must be obvious to any one conversant with young minds, that, according to this rule, some will be admitted to this School who are not familiar with the elementary studies, and who occupy an undue proportion of the time of the master, to the disadvantage of others. This will continue to be the case till some other mode of admission is adopted. If scholars were to be admitted there on the ground of *merit*, on the certified recommendation of their teacher, or upon a special examination with this object in view, then the High School would prove a stimulus to the Primary Schools, and would be to its members all that its patrons have designed it should be.

To accomplish all that is necessary to attain this object, your Committee are unanimously persuaded that an intermediate School ought to be established somewhere in town, where scholars may attend from the age of nine and upwards, till they are qualified to enter the High School. They propose that this School shall be under the direction of a master, who shall receive for his services not more than \$ 400 or \$ 450 per annum. They recommend that it shall be located near the junction of Faneuil and Market Streets.

By following this suggestion, you will benefit the High School, and relieve the Primary Schools. Your Committee are the more ready to make this last reference from the fact, that it is yet to be decided how many District Schools we are to have for the year to come, and where they are to be established. From an article in the warrant for the town-meeting, it is evident that some are not yet satisfied with the formation of the new Districts. Knowing this fact, and supposing that there will be some action upon it to-day, it has engaged the attention of your Committee. They do not design to discuss



topics that are foreign to the one which is especially committed to them ; but they feel that the number and the location of the Schools are intimately connected with the cause of education, and therefore submit some suggestions. They are the more free also to express their opinion on this subject from the conviction, that all private and public expenses should be regulated by a judicious economy.

Your Committee have no wish to conflict with the Report of the Special Committee on Districts. They admit that prospectively, — allowing the town to become more populous, and new roads to be made where as yet there are none, — the plan proposed may be as judicious as any that could be made. But what shall be done in the interim ? Cannot some plan be devised, which, with some mutual conciliation in different neighbourhoods, and with a generous regard to the public expense, will accommodate all and promote the cause of education ? Your Committee are persuaded that something can be devised, and would very respectfully suggest, that, for the present, there shall be but *four District Schools* in town, and that an intermediate School be established, as proposed above.

To accommodate the inhabitants in the East District, and in the northeast part of the town, your Committee recommend that the Schoolhouse in that District be removed to some site near Mr. Emery Rice's, and then and there be suitably repaired for the accommodation of that part of the town. By adopting this plan, you will incur only the expense of removing and repairing one Schoolhouse, instead of repairing the Schoolhouse where it now stands, and building a new one in the new District.

Your Committee would also suggest that the westerly line of the East District be altered so as to intersect River Street at some point near ———, so as to relieve the North District, which is now overflowing.

Your Committee would make no suggestions respecting the old division-lines of other Districts, and all that they would add in reference to the accommodation of said Districts is,



that some suitable site be purchased and owned by the town for the Centre District Schoolhouse. It is in an exposed situation on the side hill, where many, who are not citizens of Brighton, are tempted to try the speed of their horses, to the peril of children as well as of all others who may chance to be in the street. The ground rent of \$20 per annum is another consideration why some spot in that vicinity should be purchased and owned by the town for the accommodation of that District.

If your Committee had the power of making roads, and could make them as easily as they can draw lines, they would say, that, if a passage-way could be made from Mr. Isaac Dyer's to Rockland Street, near Mr. Charles Warren's, and there was an avenue from Rockland Street to Seaver Lane, — then they would most cheerfully recommend that the Centre District School should be kept on Academy Hill, where a commodious building has been erected, which is now vacant, and where children would be sheltered from all the perils of a public street. In this case, the present Schoolhouse in the Centre District could be removed to Market and Fanueil Streets, and with some alterations be prepared for the intermediate School which we have recommended.

In making some of these suggestions for the sake of economy, we wish it to be distinctly understood, it is with the expectation that you will establish an intermediate School, where children from nine and upwards can be prepared for the High School.

Your Committee submit these suggestion with all deference to the public will, fully aware that the approval or rejection of them depends upon the freemen of Brighton.

With accommodations for Schools, your Committee are persuaded that it is a great object to secure good teachers. The choice should be impartial, and with a design to promote the public good. A selection must be made after faithful inquiry respecting qualifications and probable success. In no case should a man be deputed to make this selection who regards



it as a task, and who accepts the office merely because it is his turn to have it, and no other will accept it. If there is this hesitation respecting the Committeeship for the Districts, your Committee would very respectfully recommend that the selection of teachers shall in future be left with the General School Committee. As the duties of your present Committee expire to-day, they can, without an impeachment of their delicacy, recommend that the selection of teachers for all the Schools be left with their successors in office. This will somewhat increase the duties of the General Committee, whose labors are by no means light. Your present Committee, in closing their services for this year, cannot withhold the remark, that they have found the labors of their office responsible and arduous. They have made more than 100 visits to the Schools, besides examining the teachers, and holding repeated conferences respecting the interests of the Schools, and the general cause of education in town. Neither can they withhold the remark, that, while there has been harmony in their own councils, they have been cheered in the discharge of their duties by the general coöperation of parents and teachers.

Your Committee are happy to inform you, that, owing to the recent adoption of the excellent By-laws passed and approved by this town, they recommend that in future the High School shall not be suspended on Mondays.

Before we close this Report, we must remind you that good schools cannot be sustained without the necessary appropriations. Heretofore you have contributed liberally, and for several years stood at the head of the tabular list prepared by the Secretary of the Board of Education for this Commonwealth. If the two new Districts are continued without change, you will need an increase of appropriation. If these Schools are discontinued, and an intermediate School is established, an increase of appropriation will in that case be needed. Your Committee, therefore, recommend, that for the ensuing year the sum of \$2300 be appropriated for the use of Schools. They are persuaded that the town will not be slow to make



this appropriation, when told that there has been an increase of 50 scholars for the last year, and that for the last five years there has been an increase of 92, and yet the annual appropriation is not greater than it was in the year 1841.

We do not ask for funds to be lavished in useless adornments, nor in plans that are profitless, — but we ask aid at your hands to educate your children, to discipline their minds, to store them with useful knowledge, and to lay up for them a treasure which private misfortune and national embarrassments cannot waste. The exhalation which is taken from the moistened earth, and which dries up the fountains and the running brooks, is not lost, — it returns in genial showers, — it gives life to the vegetable world, and fills the garner of the husbandman. So may it be with the sums taken for a time from you ! May they yet return to you in rich abundance ! May your sons cheer your dwellings with their intelligence, and be the glory of your old age, — and may your daughters in their tender years, and in maturer life, show, that, by moral and mental culture, they are as “polished stones,” to give new lustre to your homes, and be gems in an eternal crown !

In behalf of the Committee.

JOHN R. ADAMS.

JOHN R. ADAMS,	}	<i>Superintending School Committee.</i>
FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,		
ZEBINA L. RAYMOND,		

*Brighton, March 2, 1846.*







NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1846 - 47.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
METCALF AND COMPANY,  
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1847.







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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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1847.







## R E P O R T .

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A STATUTE of this Commonwealth requires that "the school committees shall annually make a detailed report of the condition of the several public schools in their respective cities and towns, which report shall contain such statements and suggestions in relation to said schools as the said committees shall deem necessary, or proper to promote the interests thereof ; and a certified copy of such report shall be transmitted to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, on or before the last day of April. Said report shall also be deposited in the office of the clerk of the city or town, and shall either be read in open town-meeting in the month of February, March, or April, or, at the discretion of the school committee, shall be printed for the use of the inhabitants."

In compliance with this statute, the School Committee of Brighton respectfully submit the following Report.

### DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT SCHOOL-HOUSES.

They congratulate their fellow-citizens that, with the past year, the long-agitated subject of a new division of the town into School Districts has been settled ; and as they believe, to the general satisfaction of the inhabitants. At the Annual Meeting in March last, a committee of one from each School District was appointed, to be joined by the General Committee, to consider the whole subject of schools and districts. After several conferences, and having learned as far as they were



able, the wishes of the inhabitants in regard to the matter, this committee reported a plan for dividing the town into six Districts, the schools to be severally designated as Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. This report was accepted ; and the plan, as adopted by the town, has been put in operation. The Committee append to their Report a description of the District lines, that all may clearly understand their own territory. Districts No. 1 and No. 4 were without school-houses ; and committees were appointed and appropriations made by the town, at a meeting in April, for purchasing land and erecting houses.

The committee for District No. 1 have faithfully fulfilled their commission. Land has been procured, and a commodious and beautiful house erected on Harvard street, near its junction with River street. The house was first occupied early in July. The Committee take pleasure in commending this building. It is of two stories in height, according to the directions of the town. The school-room is pleasantly warmed by a furnace in the cellar. This method, it is hoped, will, before long, be adopted in all our schools, — an important saving both of dirt and danger. If the Auditors' Report shows any excess of expenditure above the appropriations for this house, your Committee are satisfied that nothing has been needlessly expended here. The play-ground is completely protected from every street, while in Districts 3 and 5 it is much exposed ; and should a few shade-trees be planted in this ample inclosure, about all would be done to complete the idea of what a school-house and school-ground should be. Your Committee bespeak for this building the care of the pupils, and the diligent supervision of the teacher and Prudential Committee.

The committee appointed to provide a school-house in District No. 4 have been unable to procure land on suitable terms. The District is still without a school-house. The school has been kept in the Academy on Rockland street, beyond the limits of the District. This building is not furnished with suitable seats, and its present interior arrangement is in-



convenient and uncomfortable. The Committee earnestly recommend that further efforts be made to procure a lot of land within the District, on which a school-house may be placed. The difficulty of obtaining land in the centre of the town for this purpose will not be likely to grow less, but greater, each year. And should it be found necessary to continue the school in the present building through the coming summer, then the Committee recommend that it be forthwith provided with suitable seats, which might be removed to a new building, when erected.

The school-house in District No. 6 was remodelled in the interior early in the year, and is now one of the neatest and most comfortable in the town. They who have served on the Committee in former years, and all who have visited this school-house, must remember how inconvenient and uninviting were its interior arrangement and aspect, and how unfavorable to the order and good discipline of the school. A great change has been wrought in this latter respect, by a judicious expenditure on the building for alterations and repairs.

No other unusual expenses have been incurred during the year. The school-house in District No. 3, your Committee cannot but observe, should be repainted. The passer-by must notice that the building suffers for want of some outward repairs. It is as short-sighted economy to defer the smallest necessary repairs on a building, as it is morally dangerous to suffer the inroads of a single vicious habit upon the character.

The Committee would not close this head of their Report, without insisting on the intimate connection between good schools and good school-houses. They believe that the manners, the minds, the morals, of the pupils are all greatly influenced by the arrangement and condition of these buildings, in which they pass so many days when most susceptible of lasting impressions. School-rooms should be made convenient, comfortable, attractive, to the young. Proper ventilation should be a matter of the first concern with committees and teachers. Entire cleanliness within and around the buildings should be demanded, as conducing not more directly to the



physical welfare, than to the moral purity, of children. A broken pane of glass does far more injury than to let in the wind and the storm. A school-house which is kept neatly painted within and without is less liable to wanton abuse than one unpainted, and is, therefore, as for other reasons, the cheapest. The true sentiment on this subject is fast spreading through the State. From all quarters, we learn of increased attention to the architecture, the accommodations, the apparatus, the external and internal appearance, of school-houses. Let these matters be generously regarded, and a corresponding effect will inevitably be witnessed in the moral and intellectual improvement of the pupils and on all the best interests of our schools.

### APPROPRIATION FOR SCHOOLS.

The sum of twenty-three hundred dollars was appropriated for the support of schools at the last Annual Meeting, being an increase of three hundred dollars above the appropriation of the preceding year. The town has received, as its annual portion from the State School Fund, the amount of \$59.72. The number of persons in town between the ages of four and sixteen, in May last, was 421, — males 216, females 205, — an increase, in the whole, of ten over the number of the preceding year. The graduated table prepared by the Secretary of the Board of Education, showing the comparative amount of money appropriated in 1845 – 6, in the several towns for the education of each child between the ages of four and sixteen, places Brighton tenth on the list. Nine towns only, of the 309 in the State, are above us. For several years Brighton stood first. Had the appropriation of last March been assumed in the calculation, it would now stand third. The money has been expended as will appear by the Report of the Auditors. The bill of one of the General School Committee of 1845, for his services, which did not appear on the last Report of the Auditors, is entered now, as also a few other charges not belonging to the past year. The Committee will submit, before closing, their estimate of the appropriation needed for the ensuing year.



## TEACHERS.

The schools have been taught during the past year by the same teachers as before, except District Schools Nos. 2 and 6. The teachers in these schools were approved by the Committee in March and in April last.

## CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

The condition of the public schools, we believe, is as favorable as at any former period ; and we proceed to lay before you a statement of internal matters. In some of the schools, as may be supposed, improvement and progress has been more obvious than in others. We have no desire to exaggerate what deserves praise, nor to conceal what cannot be commended. If asked if we are satisfied with the condition of the schools, we must reply, with our brothers of Roxbury, to the same inquiry, —“ No ! not satisfied, of course, but encouraged.” All defects are not supplied, all improvement is not closed, and till this is done we shall not be satisfied. This work, education, is man’s greatest work ; this system, schools, the greatest instrument devised for carrying it on ; while these agents, teachers and committees, are human, all. We have not thought much yet of being satisfied. We do not pretend so to report to you the condition of the schools, as we have watched them another year ; not as though they had already attained, either were already perfect. But we have witnessed some improvement. We see the elements of a yet better state. Devotedly should all strive to bring it on, and beyond we shall discern a better still.

The Committee have repeatedly visited the schools, and have held examinations of the same, at the close of each of the three school-terms, according to law. Minutes of each of these examinations have been preserved on the books of the secretary, and may be interesting for reference and comparison hereafter. The Academical year beginning and ending with the first of March, the school terms have closed with July, November, and February. We will state the condition of each school at these visitations.



## EXAMINATIONS.

## HIGH SCHOOL.

Principal, Mr. John Ruggles. Assistant, Miss S. A. W. Davis.

*First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	119
Boys, 56 ; Girls, 63.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	65
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 43.	
Present, . . . . .	55
Boys, 17 ; Girls, 38.	

A large number of the boys were absent, being occupied temporarily at the neighbouring Arsenal.

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	102
Boys, 48 ; Girls, 54.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	85
Boys, 44 ; Girls, 41.	
Present, . . . . .	71
Boys, 35 ; Girls, 36.	

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	120
Boys, 65 ; Girls, 55.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	103
Boys, 58 ; Girls, 45.	
Present, . . . . .	89
Boys, 47 ; Girls, 42.	

Particular improvement was noticed at the first examination in the second division of readers,—in classes in English Grammar and Parsing. A class in Natural Philosophy excelled,—and recitations in Latin, in French, and in Rhetoric were commended. At the second examination, recitations in English History, in Geography, and in Mathematics were the best ; and at the third, recitations by the first class in Geography, in Natural Philosophy, in English Grammar, in Arithmetic, and in Algebra, were especially accurate. The good reading has



been noticed at each visitation. Exercises in Declamation, at the third examination, gave evidence of native capacity for eloquence well meriting further culture, and English Compositions were presented by the boys and girls, — and at the second examination by the boys alone, — which, for correctness of sentiment and expression, it is believed, would not suffer in comparison with those of any similar school. The general order of the school at each visitation of the Committee has been highly satisfactory ; and the interest of the parents and friends of the pupils was evinced, by a larger attendance at the last examination than has ever been witnessed by your Committee before.

An opportunity is here afforded to all the youth of our town to acquire, if they choose, a thorough preparatory education. With them and with their natural guardians, who may best counsel and influence them, rests the decision. Some of the pupils, it has not escaped the notice of the Committee, seem to have wisely decided. By their improvement and advancement in their studies, by their mental culture and moral habits, they are laying sure foundations for the character of noble men and women. Let their example stimulate their associates, and each year's Report will send among their homes a fairer picture and still better promise from the school. The teachers, we believe, have been faithful. Their task is very arduous, the attainments of the pupils being so different and the studies so various. A proper High School receives its pupils by a fixed standard of qualification, and not from age. That ours may do this, we must have one or more intermediate or Grammar Schools between the High and District Schools. This subject has been submitted in former Reports, and we trust that with the coming year a plan will be devised, which shall unite the interests and wishes of different sections of the town in the accomplishment of this good result. Until this is done, the Committee recommend that the High School be conducted as hitherto. But they would respectfully commend this proposed improvement to the earliest consideration of their successors in office.



## DISTRICT No. I.

Teacher, Miss Emeline Wellington.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	41
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	30
“ present, . . . . .	29

*Second Examination.*

Deferred, teacher ill.

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	53
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	46
“ present, . . . . .	35

A severe snow-storm, yet none were absent but such as were sick.

We have spoken of the excellent school-room and accommodations in this District. The appearance of the school at each examination, particularly at the last, was highly satisfactory. The stillness of the pupils, the general accuracy of the recitations, the correct penmanship and the neatness of the writing-books, were especially noticed. There were good exercises of reading in concert, a practice useful, we think, on several accounts. Some cases of insubordination had been early reported to the Committee from this school. But they believe that in no school does a better feeling now exist than here, between pupils and teacher. Her success has been very great.

## DISTRICT No. II.

Teacher, Miss Clarinda Ellery.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	63
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	51
“ present, . . . . .	41

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	54
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	48
“ present, . . . . .	40



*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	38
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	35
“ present,	. . . . .	28

The minutes taken at the first examination represent the order of the school as remarkably good, and the recitations in Geography and Arithmetic accurate ; the penmanship defective. At the second, the order good ; the second class of readers appeared better than the first class. At the third, there was improvement in Reading and in Geography, but in a knowledge of the elements of Arithmetic the classes were deficient, and the writing-books generally were greatly wanting in neatness. Maps were exhibited correctly drawn by some of the pupils. There is not the same variety of studies in this as in the other schools, and the pupils should manifest, therefore, the greater proficiency in those which they pursue.

## DISTRICT No. III.

Teacher, Miss Susan L. Holbrook.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	59
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	51
“ present,	. . . . .	39

*Second Examination.*

By mistake in the appointment, omitted.

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	59
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	45
“ present,	. . . . .	39

At the first examination, Reading, Spelling, and Writing were particularly commended. Exercises in Arithmetic not so accurate ; in Grammar, History, and Geography, well. Reading in concert and Declamation were good. At the last examination there was a marked improvement in all the recitations. The exercises were pleasantly diversified by declamation by



the boys, and by dialogues spoken by the girls. Penmanship by little boys of five and six years of age was exhibited, which we have never seen equalled by writers as young. The school-room was filled with the parents and friends of the children ; and we must present this as one of the most satisfactory examinations we have witnessed.

#### DISTRICT No. IV.

Teacher, Miss Nancy B. White.

##### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	50
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	46
“ present,	. . . . .	40

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	53
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	53
“ present,	. . . . .	40

##### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	57
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	48
“ present,	. . . . .	35

We think great credit is due to the teacher for the good appearance of this school, under the disadvantages of a very ill-furnished room, of which we took notice above. It is kept in the Academy. The condition and arrangement of the seats is very unfavorable for the order and stillness of the school, and yet, in this respect, it compares well with the other schools. The recitations in Arithmetic and Geography, in History and Philosophy, were noticed for accuracy at each of the examinations. At the first examination, the first class of readers was considered by the Committee the best they had seen in the District Schools ; and at both the succeeding examinations, the class has maintained that character. The writing-books show care and improvement. Singing, which we are glad to find practised in all our schools, as productive of the happiest effects



upon the hearts and minds of the pupils, is particularly good in this school. The recitation of some pieces in prose and in verse formed a pleasant variety at the last examination. The teacher appears interested in her work, and it is hoped that the books which, at her request, the Committee distributed among the scholars at the closing examination, as her gifts and tokens of her regard, will incite them to repay her good-will and faithfulness by increased diligence and obedience.

### DISTRICT No. V.

Teacher, Miss Cornelia Hastings.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	54
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	46
“ present,	. . . . .	36

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	53
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	48
“ present,	. . . . .	36

#### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	54
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	49
“ present,	. . . . .	36

At the first examination, great improvement was noticed, especially in the younger pupils. The recitations were generally very accurate. At the second examination, the recitations in Arithmetic and Geography were particularly good ; in History and Grammar not so correct. Improvement in Reading and Spelling was observed, and the reading of poetry in concert was as good as we have heard. At the last examination, some of the recitations were not quite equal to what the pupils have exhibited before. The best specimens of drawing were shown which we have seen in the District Schools. The penmanship has denoted improvement at each visitation of the school ; and in no other school have the writing-books exhibited



more neatness and accuracy than here. A large number of the parents and friends of the pupils were present at the closing examination. Of the importance of their attendance on these occasions, as well as at other times, they cannot be too often apprized.

### DISTRICT No. VI.

Teacher, Miss Lydia N. Hastings.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	50
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	50
“ present,	. . . . .	39

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	53
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	46
“ present,	. . . . .	39

#### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	56
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	47
“ present,	. . . . .	39

Weather unfavorable.

The alterations and repairs which have been made in this school-room the past year have so changed the whole appearance of things, that the Committee can hardly realize that they have been visiting the old East School. We think that a steady improvement has been manifested at each of the examinations of the year. At the first, the general order and stillness of the school was not remarkable, though still in advance of the same at former visitations in the old room. At the last, it was particularly commended. The penmanship, which has been deficient in this school in former years, is, under the present teacher, equal to the best which our schools exhibit. A class in Oral Arithmetic, which at the second examination was deficient, showed at the last, on examination by the Committee, entire accuracy. The exercises in Reading and Spelling, in



Grammar and Parsing, in History and Philosophy, were highly creditable. Written compositions were read by several of the pupils at the second and third examinations. The Committee have not failed to observe, with much satisfaction, the affectionate relation which subsists between the teacher and her pupils. It has already wrought the happiest moral influence upon the general character of the school, as well as in some particular instances which have been brought to our notice. A larger number of the friends of the school were present at the last examination, than we have ever met from this District.

We here close our notice of the condition of the schools, which is made, not from memory and past impressions, but chiefly from observations recorded at the several visitations. From the survey we think the schools present an encouraging aspect. The recommendation above made, in regard to an intermediate school, which we hope may be carried into effect with the coming year, will greatly benefit both the High School and the District Schools. We believe our citizens are disposed to do whatever can reasonably be asked of them for the continued improvement of our public schools. They are all we have. No private schools whatever are sustained among us. We would have our public schools so good, that no others should be desired. Still, doubtless, it is unavoidable that some parents will prefer to send their children from home, not alone for the instruction they may receive, but for their special supervision out of school hours, and for various considerations which public schools, however well conducted, cannot satisfy. We believe that a smaller number of children in proportion to our population are at the present time withdrawn from the public schools of this town for private instruction elsewhere, than in almost any town in the State. Believing that an erroneous impression on this subject exists in the minds of some of our citizens, and to the prejudice of our public schools, your Committee have particularly investigated the matter. They find that, among the 309 towns of this Commonwealth, 48 only are without private schools, of which Brighton is one. Of those



immediately adjoining us, Boston sustains 100 private schools, Cambridge 13, Watertown 3, and Roxbury, excellent and widely known as are her public schools, supports 25 private schools. The public schools in Cambridge have attained a high rank ; and yet we find that of the number of school children last year returned, 2,858, *one ninth* part are withdrawn from these schools and receive private instruction in town and elsewhere. These facts, which might be greatly multiplied, show how fallacious may be any argument which is drawn to the prejudice of public schools from the numbers, merely, of those who seek private instruction.

We must advert briefly to the want of a change in the reading-books of our schools. The pupils have become so familiar with the lessons now in use, that the benefit of their exercise is in a measure lost. And your Committee recommend that a few copies from two different sets of Readers be purchased for the use of the pupils of the High School, to be owned by the town and kept at the school-room in the care of the teachers. Fifteen or twenty dollars would be an ample sum for this purpose, while the advantage to the school, we feel assured, would be very great.

Several subjects of interest your Committee pass by now, because they have been treated in former Reports. In few words, we add, let a strong public sentiment be cherished among us in favor of continued improvement in our Common Schools. Let parents remember how much the condition of the schools depends on their own interest and coöperation. Let them visit the schools ; let them enforce the constant attendance of their children, and insist on their obedience to all established rules, and their regard for the rightful authority of the teacher. Let them be wary in giving heed to children's reports concerning the school or teacher, but go at once to the proper source and know the matter. Let them inquire at home of the studies and mental progress of their children ; and be concerned, above all, for their growing characters, their habits, manners, speech, both while at home and by the way. Teachers must love their pupils and their work. They must



aim to promote mental activity in the young. To lead the pupil to think and inquire is worth more than to communicate passively on his part many important truths. They must themselves profit by each term's experience, or their schools will not progress. They must conscientiously observe school hours and seasons and regulations, or in vain endeavour to make the scholars regular. They must remember how surely their own manners, their forms of speech, their very tones of voice, are daily influencing those whose minds and characters they are expected to help form aright. They must inspire true respect and confidence in their pupils, or labor at fearful disadvantage. This can be done only through correct moral principles in themselves, by steadiness of purpose, and a patient bearing, — by shunning all foolish threatenings which are to go unfulfilled, — by kindness of manner, — by sweetness of temper and tone and looks. The minds of the young are to be disciplined and stored by their instructions. Correct, truthful, and pure speech they are first to exemplify, and so enforce. A proper behaviour, virtuous habits, mutual goodwill and affection, honesty, uprightness, and respect towards man, and a just reverence for God and for sacred things, — these all, teachers are expected to encourage and cherish in the pupils. We know their work is great. Encouragement, gratitude, honor, they richly merit, and will receive, for each step they take towards realizing the true idea of education, — of school-keeping. But they must have this idea steadily in mind, and this work must be first with them and supreme.

We are glad the work is such, — the idea so high and still rising in our Commonwealth. And we would not close this Report without expressing our grateful sense of obligation to one, who has done so much to raise the standard of education among us, and thus to change essentially and to improve the character of our public schools. The able Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, for his unwearied and most successful efforts in this cause, deserves the warmest thanks of all our people. Through his services on this Board, a new impulse has been given to the friends of education



throughout the State, — the qualifications of teachers have been raised, — innumerable evils and defects in our schools have already been remedied, salutary reforms effected, improvements made and still proposed. His valuable Annual Reports are deposited in our school libraries ; and we commend them and the Abstract of the School Returns, prepared, likewise, annually by his hand, to the attention of our citizens.

Your Committee recommend that the sum of twenty-three hundred dollars be appropriated for the support of schools for the ensuing year. They believe the amount required for ordinary expenses will not fall short of this.

And once more asking both for the intellectual and moral interests of our schools the earnest and friendly coöperation of parents, teachers, and committees, they surrender their trust, hoping that each year may testify to the increasing welfare of the schools, and to their yet wider usefulness.

In behalf of the Committee.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

JOHN R. ADAMS,	}	<i>Superintending School Committee.</i>
FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,		
JAMES M. WHITTEMORE,		

*Brighton, March 8, 1847.*

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AT the Town meeting, March 8, it was voted that this Report be accepted, and printed as usual, for the use of the inhabitants.



## DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

ADOPTED BY THE TOWN, MARCH 16, 1846.

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District No. 1 is bounded southerly by the Boston and Worcester Railroad from its junction with Brookline line, running westerly one hundred and five rods from the crossing of Cambridge street, thence due north<sup>north</sup> west of Goding's hotel to Charles River, thence by Charles River to the first-named point.

District No. 2 is bounded easterly by No. 1, northerly by Charles River to Arsenal bridge, southerly by a line running from said bridge to the junction of Faneuil and Market streets, thence turning northerly and running to the intersection of westerly line of No. 1 with the railroad.

District No. 3 is bounded northerly by Charles River from Arsenal bridge to the line dividing Newton from Brighton, westerly by said division line to a point twenty rods northwesterly of the junction of South street with Newton line, thence northwesterly to Washington street, west of the house now owned and occupied by Jonathan Whitney, crossing Washington street, running between the dwellings now occupied by Joseph D. Dudley and Miss Sally Worcester, to the junction of Faneuil and Market streets.

District No. 4 is bounded westerly by No. 3, easterly by a line running south from the junction of Faneuil and Market streets, intersecting Washington street between the dwellings of William Warren and Jesse Osborn, running through the centre of Rockland street, and over Academy hill, to Newton line.

District No. 5 is bounded westerly by No. 4, northeasterly by a line running from the junction of Faneuil and Market streets to a point near the junction of Washington street, so far north as to include the dwelling occupied by William Livermore, southerly by town line to easterly line of No. 4.

District No. 6 is bounded westerly by No. 5, southerly by the line dividing the town of Brookline from Brighton, northerly by the Boston and Worcester Railroad, northeasterly by District No. 2, from the railroad to the junction of Faneuil and Market streets.







TENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1847 - 48.

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CAMBRIDGE:

METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1848.







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# R E P O R T.

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THE School Committee of Brighton herewith respectfully submit to the citizens of the town their Tenth Annual Report.

## SCHOOL SYSTEM.

During the past year an important change in our school system — one which has been recommended by successive committees, and which has been waiting for the fulness of time — has been accomplished. We refer to the division of the school which was formerly called the High School, and the establishment therefrom of an Intermediate or Grammar School. We have now the three grades of schools most desirable for the best operation of our New England system of education. They are the District or Primary Schools, kept through the whole year by female teachers, to which children are regularly admitted at the age of four years ; the Grammar School, to which they may be admitted at the age of ten years, or at such other fixed age as may hereafter be thought most expedient ; and, lastly, the High School proper, to which they are admitted, not from age, but from qualifications. Having attained these qualifications at the Grammar School, or elsewhere, they are, on examination before the Committee, received into the High School, where, in connection with those of similar attainments, they can follow any studies they may desire, fitting them either for agricultural pursuits or the mechanic arts, — for the counting-room or the university, — for the profession of teacher, — for any station in life, in short, which either



man may fill, or woman may adorn. Both the latter schools are kept by male teachers through the year. The education which must otherwise be attained at a very considerable expense, each year, from private schools is here brought freely, as it were without money or price, to the door of the poorest man. His children share equal opportunities with the most opulent for acquiring the best education which the most favored public schools bestow. No argument is needed to establish the benefits of such a system. The Committee cannot but remark, in passing, the extreme importance of maintaining and still improving the plan, now in successful and hopeful operation, as we look beyond our own accommodation to the increase of the town by accession of families from abroad. More and more these questions are asked by such as the crowded metropolis is yearly sending out into the adjacent towns, — “Where shall we find the best schools?” “Is there in your town a public classical school, at which our boys may be prepared for college, should we so desire?” “Can you offer us equal advantages for the public education, both of our boys and girls, with your neighbours of Cambridge, Roxbury, and Brookline? If not, we shall, perhaps, be determined by this consideration alone, to settle with them.” Brighton has of late years manifested no willingness to be outdone by her neighbours in the facilities afforded for the education of all her children. Your Committee will not imply, by further enlarging on this point, that such willingness can exist. They congratulate you on your present well-devised system of schools, and most earnestly recommend its continuance, under such conditions as shall presently be specified.

## SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The condition of schools, under whatever general system, is only learned when we enter the school-houses. We feel that this Report would not meet the requisitions of the statute directing it, without presenting before you the state of these buildings. As a whole, they have never been in so good a state. The room occupied by the High School, being the



second story of the Academy on Rockland street, has been painted during the last year in imitation of oak. The purchase of this building, with the adjoining land, has likewise been concluded by the town the past year, at an expense of \$1,212.83. This must be regarded as a most fortunate purchase; the sum paid being not more than two thirds that for which the estate could be resold to-day. The room occupied by the Harvard Grammar School, being the lower story of the Town Hall, has been similarly painted; and both these buildings have also been painted on the outside. The Primary School-house of District No. 1 remains as last year reported, a new, commodious, undefaced building within and without, with its ample inclosure. Repairs have been made on and about that of No. 2, and we find nothing to complain of there, unless it be the want of a more clearly defined and separated play-ground. The careful hand of a vigilant Prudential Committee is as manifest here as at any school. That of No. 3 has been painted as recommended in the last Report, and appears very well within and without. Its location almost forbids inclosure, and it is therefore somewhat exposed to the surrounding streets. While your Committee are not now prepared to recommend any change in its location, they cannot but express their earnest conviction that every school-house, and those especially for the Primary Schools, should be completely inclosed from every street, with a well-marked and guarded play-ground. More, even, than was asked in the last Report has been done for the school-room of No. 4, being the lower story of the Academy. Not only has it been furnished with new seats, but painted throughout in imitation of oak; and Nature with a most beautiful grove of real oak-trees has inclosed and overshadowed this building as man could not do, and seems to say that she meant the spot for school ground. The school-house of No. 5 has been removed, from its somewhat exposed location on Washington street, to a new street, about to be opened, running from Washington to ~~Windsor~~ <sup>Windsor</sup> street, and completely inclosed on every side by a substantial fence. That of No. 6 has also been removed within the past year a short distance, and now stands on a new street, about to be opened, running

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from Beacon to Washington street, and is in good order. The expense, which, by direction of your Board of Selectmen, has thus been incurred for the purchase, alteration, and repairs of school-buildings, and which is laid before you in the Report of your Auditors, we cannot but consider as, in all respects, most judicious. The Committee will not speak here of the importance of convenient, comfortable, and attractive school-houses to the best interests of the schools, having particularly directed your attention to the subject last year. They believe that in few towns, if in any, are the school-rooms, taken together, in so good condition as here. Though put in this state at some outlay from the treasury, they have thereby increased in value on the town's hands. The work has been done, not for this year alone, but for several years. The cost should not all be borne this year, but distributed among those who are also to enjoy the benefits it has purchased. If you find fault with your Board of Selectmen for what they have done this year for the improvement of your public buildings, you must blame us too. We have been standing by, and not consenting only, but encouraging, this foul play, if you call it such, with your pockets. We have been glad for every nail that has been driven, for every stone upturned, for every sweep of the painter's brush. We report the school-houses as in excellent condition, a subject of just pride, an honor to the town.

### TEACHERS.

None of the schools remain at present in charge of the same teachers as when last reported, except the High School and Primary School No. 6. The Harvard Grammar School was instituted and its present teacher appointed in September last. The present teacher of Primary School No. 1 was approved in March. The teachers of Nos. 2 and 3 were approved in August, and of Nos. 4 and 5 in November. Of the teachers employed, six, *one third of all*, have received their education at your High School, one was educated at Harvard University, three have been connected with the State Normal Schools, and the others have been educated elsewhere.



## CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

Although the schools have, for the most part, been thus subject to a change of teachers, they have, on the whole, well maintained the character presented the last year. We would carefully avoid the slightest exaggeration, in the brief detail to be laid before you, of their appearance, as visited and examined by the Committee, even at the expense, if need be, of withholding merited commendation. The longer and more intimately we watch the schools, the more room do we discern for improvement. Still, our survey for the past year is very encouraging. No single school stands to-day worse than it stood at our last annual meeting. Some have alternated between progress and decline ; some have gone more steadily forward. The several teachers, eighteen in all, who have been employed, have manifested various gifts, and, with very few exceptions, have proved successful in their places. The conduct of the pupils has, for the most part, been remarkably good. Very few cases of disobedience or misdemeanour have been submitted to the Committee. Such as have been reported, they have not failed to notice, — determined, at all events, to sustain the teachers in the exercise of their rightful authority, and to require of them, as far as possible, to have regard to the speech, the manners, and the moral as well as the mental culture, of those intrusted partly to their charge. Examinations of the several schools have been held, as required by law, at the close of the three school terms which ended, severally, with July, November, and February. We will report the numbers in attendance, and the appearance of each school, at these three examinations.

### EXAMINATIONS.

#### HIGH SCHOOL.

Teacher, Mr. John Ruggles, of Milton.

#### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	132
Boys, 68 ; Girls, 64.	



Belonging to the school,	76
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 43.	
Present,	64
Boys, 26 ; Girls, 38.	

This examination, it will be observed, was held before the division of the school.

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	50
Boys, 20 ; Girls, 30.	
Belonging to the school,	40
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 22.	
Present,	37
Boys, 17 ; Girls, 20.	

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	54
Boys, 28 ; Girls, 26.	
Belonging to the school,	48
Boys, 24 ; Girls, 24.	
Present,	44
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 22.	

With the close of the first term, Miss S. A. W. Davis resigned her place as assistant-teacher, — a station which she had faithfully and successfully filled for more than three years, — having received an appointment in another seminary. Your Committee were satisfied that the time had come when the interests of the school required that it should be divided, and the pupils classed according to their qualifications. They conferred with the Board of Selectmen, at two successive meetings ; and on the 8th of September, with their concurrence, the following resolve was passed, as entered in the Records of the Committee : —

“ *Resolved*, That the most advanced pupils of both sexes be transferred, under the care of the present teacher, to the Academy on Rockland street, there to constitute a High School proper, to which, for the future, pupils shall be admitted from qualifications, and not from age alone, as heretofore ; and that a male teacher be engaged to take charge of the remaining pupils, who shall constitute the first Grammar School of the town, under the name of the Harvard Grammar School, in grateful commemoration of John Harvard, founder of the neighbouring University at



Cambridge, of which town Brighton formed a part until its separate incorporation in 1807. And to this school pupils shall be admitted from age, and from the District or Primary Schools."

This resolve was carried into effect as soon as a teacher was secured for the Grammar School, which was opened on the 28th of September, and the High School on the 29th.

Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton, was employed as assistant-teacher, in place of Miss Davis, from the commencement of the term till the division of the school, and discharged her duties to the entire satisfaction of the Committee.

The first examination was held through the day. Exercises in Arithmetic, Algebra, and Surveying, in Reading, English Grammar, and Parsing, in Natural Philosophy and History, in Latin and French, were much commended. The fourth class in Geography was not so accurate as usual ; but the first class, questioned very fully by the Committee, appeared remarkably well. Exercises by a large class in Botany were very satisfactory.

At the second examination, we heard the third class in French, the first in Arithmetic, the second in Parsing, and the second in Algebra, and were gratified with the thoroughness and accuracy which they displayed. A large class in Natural Philosophy, having attended to Optics and Astronomy, manifested a thorough knowledge, as far as advanced. The reading and translation of Latin by boys were especially accurate ; and the reading and translation of several passages from Cicero's Orations, by a young lady, would not have suffered in comparison with similar exercises often witnessed in our highest seminaries.

At the last examination, held in the Town Hall for the accommodation of visitors, the benefits resulting from the new organization of the school were still more obvious. The school has not before appeared so well, on the whole. The entire day was employed by the Committee with the pupils in the several branches before pursued. Improvement in writing was very marked. The Penmanship was generally very correct and beautiful ; and English Compositions, which were also exhibited at each of the other examinations, were here much



commended. These compositions are taken from the school, and examined by the Committee severally. Exercises in Declamation were also very good. There seemed to the Committee a regard for propriety of conduct and good order, a manliness and maturity about the exercises, which they have not before so fully observed, reminding them of what they have witnessed at examinations of the Normal Schools. The teacher was well and deservedly rewarded for his long and faithful services, in the interest manifested by the parents and friends of the pupils, more of whom attended than we have ever before seen, though in a severe snow-storm, and in the full attendance of the pupils, of whom four only were absent, and those, as we learned, not without sufficient cause. We report the school as in a very promising condition ; and cannot doubt that the pupils generally may now derive more advantage, under its new arrangement, in one year, than they could before in two years. The benefits of this school, if regularly attended by the pupils and still devotedly served by the teacher, cannot fail, in a few years, to be most sensibly perceived in the general elevation of the town.

#### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Teacher, Mr. Solomon A. Poore, of Dorchester.

Not established when the other schools were first examined.

##### *Examination in November.*

Number through the term,	77
Boys, 46 ; Girls, 31.	
Belonging to the school,	76
Boys, 46 ; Girls, 30.	
Present,	56
Boys, 40 ; Girls, 16.	

Weather stormy, and several pupils sick.

The time and manner of organizing this school have been noticed above. The two examinations which have been held have fully convinced your Committee that its separation from the High School was, on all accounts, best. Its pupils have



been much benefited thereby, as have the pupils of the High School. Each portion of the original school, with its own appropriate studies and the undivided attention of its teacher, is more rapidly advancing than before. At the first examination, the Committee selected the first and fourth classes in Arithmetic ; first, second, and fourth in Geography ; first in Grammar ; second in History ; first in Reading and Spelling ; and very general accuracy was manifested. The teacher had bestowed much attention on the elements of sound, as the basis of correct pronunciation and good reading ; and at the second examination the good results of this course were quite apparent in the three classes of readers, which embraced the whole school. Exercises at this last examination, in Arithmetic, History, and Geography, were likewise very satisfactory ; and on both occasions, recitations from the outline maps were particularly commended. The Penmanship has denoted care and improvement. We approve the teacher's plan in regard to English Compositions. Boys and girls write on alternate Saturdays, in books kept by the teacher. The day on which one portion writes is devoted by the teacher to the correction of the books of the other. He reads, or causes to be read aloud, each composition, and makes remarks thereon. Words misspelled, or sentences "very bad," are put upon the blackboard and rectified by the author, or by some other one of the class. The method of discipline in the school is productive of the best order. We would call particular attention to this, especially in connection with the number of pupils attending. The order is about as good as we have ever witnessed, in town or elsewhere. The singing is very good, and more generally shared in by the boys than usual. The large attendance of visitors at the closing examination expressed the general satisfaction which we believe is felt with the condition and management of this school. The teacher, coming among us not six months since, an entire stranger, has, we think, been eminently successful in his place. Any essential change in the present organization and management of the school, we believe, must be to its detriment. We recommend unhesitatingly their continuance.



## DISTRICT No. I.

Teacher, Miss Susanna M. Duncklee, of Brighton.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. Emerson Wheeler.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	53
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	42
“ present, . . . . .	34

*Second Examination.*

Deferred, teacher ill.

Number through the term, . . . . .	49
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	45
“ present at a visit of one of the Committee, examination week, . . . . .	36

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	53
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	43
“ present, . . . . .	39

Particular accuracy was noticed at the first examination in Geography and Arithmetic, in the first class of readers, and in a class of young readers, whose exercise in concert we thought had not been surpassed. At the last examination, exercises in History, and by the first class in Geography, and by a large class in Natural Philosophy, were very correct. Recitations in Grammar were good. Reading by the first class superior. School-room remarkably neat. Order good, particularly at recess. The enunciation of the pupils generally very clear and accurate. The teacher was interrupted by sickness in the fall, and her place was supplied for a few weeks by Miss Henrietta K. Hersey, of Groton, N. H. Notwithstanding such interruption, the school has maintained the character reported last year. A good number of the friends of the pupils were present at the last examination. By request, the Committee on that occasion distributed among the scholars some books, their teacher's gifts, tokens of her regard and of the pleasant relation existing between her and them. Let her faithful labors for their welfare be rewarded by their diligence and obedience.



## DISTRICT No. II.

Teacher, Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Elijah Clark.

*First Examination.*

Deferred, teacher ill.

Number through the term, . . . . .	71
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	68

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	58
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	44
“ present, . . . . .	35

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	50
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	49
“ present, . . . . .	45

This school was opened under the charge of Miss Hannah A. Hoyt, well known as a former successful teacher in town, who from illness was compelled to leave it, shortly before the first examination. She did much in a short time for its improvement. Her method of discipline was peculiar, — productive of good order and most friendly relations. One feature of it, we would detail, — her plan for curing that troublesome habit, in all schools more or less prevalent, the habit of whispering. Twice in each school session an interval of two or three minutes was granted for whispering. But the pupil who should have, during study hours, as many as six marks for whispering in one week, and this for six weeks successively, should receive a mark of demerit in the teacher's private register, to be submitted to the Committee. She had tried this method for almost six weeks, when she was taken sick, and no pupil had received marks enough to entitle him to the unworthy distinction of a demerit. Several had not once whispered. The plan was mutual, and the pupils were permitted by a vote to fix the number which should constitute a demerit at six. They had agreed, likewise, that if successful by this standard, they would, the next term, make the number lower than six.



By similar influences, the teacher had helped to correct in her pupils the habit of evil speech. We cannot omit noticing every effort to promote the moral welfare of our schools through means of all others most effectual, a mutual confidence between teachers and pupils.

The school was next under the charge of Miss Laura M. Demmon, of Cambridge, approved on the 6th of August, who, with good prospects of success as its teacher, shortly resigned her place, and on the 28th of the same month the present teacher was approved. The two examinations were highly satisfactory. Exercises in Geography, Arithmetic, and Philosophy were very correct. The Reading was much commended; and at the former visitation the attention of the Committee was particularly drawn to a little girl, six years of age, who read with remarkable correctness in the first class, with the oldest pupils. Order very good in and without the school. Penmanship, which, last year, we reported to you very bad, is this year remarkably good. Several compositions were submitted, creditable to the age and attainments of the authors. The teacher, by general questions proposed to the whole school, and in other ways, manifests a happy faculty of awakening attention and of exercising the minds, not memories only, of the pupils. We may add that she, too, was taken from her labors for several weeks the past autumn by illness. Last year, we left the school very weak and low. This year, no school is, on the whole, stronger or higher.

### DISTRICT No. III.

Teacher, Miss Catharine A. Matchett, of Brighton.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. Joseph Duncklee.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	67
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	43
“ present, . . . . .	42

#### *Second Examination.*

Deferred.

Number through the term, . . . . .	60
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	46



*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	62
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	43
“ present, . . . . .	35

With the first examination, Miss Susan L. Holbrook, of East Lexington, resigned her place as teacher, which she had filled nearly two years. The Reading was very good. The second class in Geography appeared better than the first. Penmanship good. Order at the recess was noted. Several of the most advanced pupils had lately left, so that the appearance of the school as a whole was not quite equal to that presented at the former examination under the same teacher, as detailed in the Ninth Report.

The present teacher has been very successful. At the last examination, we were pleased with the general accuracy of the recitations and with the thoroughness with which she had exercised the pupils on the elements of their studies. The Reading was very good. Spelling uncommonly correct. Exercises in Arithmetic, chiefly at the blackboard, denoted improvement. We would call particular attention to the exercises in Geography, which were very satisfactory. The teacher had procured, by subscription among the families of the pupils, a set of Mitchell's Outline Maps, twenty-four in all, at a cost of thirteen dollars. By the use of these maps, she has done much for the advancement of the pupils in Geography. We hope that every school in town may soon possess a set, and manifest by the use of them an equal improvement with this school in that study. Are any generous spirits among us longing for some fresh opportunity to exercise their benevolence, having met every other occasion of doing good which Providence has thrown in their way, — to them we know we do a kindness in naming this want of the schools. The absolute and successful devotion of the teacher of No. III. to her work we cannot but commend, as it has come to our knowledge, not only from a single examination, but manifested in various ways, by which the happiness of the pupils and interests of the school could be advanced.



## DISTRICT No. IV.

Teacher, Miss Catharine Stearns, of Lancaster.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. J. B. Mason.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	59
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	54
“ present,	. . . . .	39

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	57
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	54
“ present,	. . . . .	36

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	44
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	42
“ present,	. . . . .	34

This school has been under the care of three teachers, successively, the past year. With the first examination, Miss N. B. White, of Brighton, on account of ill health, resigned the charge of it, which she had held since its organization in 1845. The minutes of that examination report, that, of the fifteen absentees, nearly all were detained by sickness. The teacher had had a laborious term, a large number of the pupils having come in utterly ignorant of the first elements of learning. Her faithful efforts, of which we have often had occasion to speak before, were commended in the general accuracy of the recitations, the good order, and the peculiarly sweet singing of the children.

The school was next taught by Miss Charlotte F. Stimpson, of Boston ; and at the examination, classes in Arithmetic and Geography appeared remarkably well, while the Reading was not so good. The Penmanship was very good, the teacher herself excelling in this branch. She had a happy method of teaching the letters and simple reading from the blackboard. She resigned at the close of the second term, though with very good prospects of success in her work and place.

At the last examination, under the present teacher, we were



gratified with the progress made by three classes of young beginners in Reading, Spelling, Abbreviations, &c. Recitations in Arithmetic and Geography were also very good, — the second class in Geography rather more ready than the first in telling us what they knew. The first class of readers well sustained the character ascribed in last year's Report to the first class of this school. Pleasant recitations in prose and verse from several pupils. Writing-books for the most part very neat. The School Register kept with a neatness and correctness which make it a model. Order good. An air of comfort about the newly furnished room. The teacher is accustomed to exercise the whole school on general questions relating to the studies pursued, — a practice useful on many accounts. We report her to have made a successful beginning of her school labors among us, to which she has come with some former experience in the work elsewhere.

#### DISTRICT No. V.

Teacher, Miss Mary E. Dana, of Brighton.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. J. N. Pierce.

##### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	56
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	49
“ present,	. . . . .	35

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	52
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	50
“ present,	. . . . .	30

##### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	48
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	34
“ present,	. . . . .	24

Of the ten absent, seven were sick.

This school, like No. IV., has had three different teachers, the past year. With the first examination, Miss Cornelia Hastings resigned the charge of it, which she had held more



than three years. The first class in Arithmetic, the second in Geography, and the first class of readers were most approved. The correct Penmanship, the specimens of Drawing, and the good appearance of the school-room were commended. The Committee regretted to learn, that, of the pupils absent, several were needlessly away.

The second teacher was Miss Hannah G. Dixey, of Marblehead, who, though apparently well qualified as an instructor, did not succeed in the management and instruction of this school, and resigned her place at the close of the second term.

The present teacher, with some experience acquired in a private school, has established a most remarkable order and stillness, and afforded us a gratifying examination. The first class in Geography appeared uncommonly well ; the second not so well, having been absent more. Exercises in Arithmetic and Grammar were very accurate. The Reading, particularly reading in concert, was very good. A class in History seemed very familiar with the portion of the book which they had gone over. The teacher practises a peculiar method in the exercise of Spelling, much approved by the Committee, and which they would recommend to the notice of the Primary teachers, as well suited to engage the attention of young pupils during the recitation, and to facilitate their progress in this important, but often too much neglected branch. We were rewarded for our attendance in listening to the sweet singing in this school ; and we found ourselves involuntarily asking the question, Why did not Nature make all school-teachers as good singers as the teacher of No. V. ?

#### DISTRICT No. VI.

Teacher, Miss Lydia N. Hastings, of Brighton.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. Albert Clarke.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	.	51
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	.	48
“ present	.	.	.	.	.	.	34



*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	45
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	43
“ present,	. . . . .	39

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	44
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	42
“ present (five sick),	. . . . .	37

The teacher of No. VI. is the only one of the present Primary teachers who has remained at her post more than a year, and of whose doings we report three successive examinations. Of the first, as recorded in August, we notice the correct enunciation and emphasis of three classes of small readers and spellers ; the general accuracy of recitations in Natural Philosophy, Geography, Grammar, and Arithmetic, oral and written. The first class in Reading and Spelling excelled. The second examination tells on the Record-book much the same story, and even hints of improvements here and there, where things looked well before. And at the last examination, besides accurate recitations, there was manifested the remarkable neatness of the school-room and of the pupils, of the writing-books and of the School Register, which we had become so accustomed to there as to expect. Nor did we fail to notice a well-furnished sink connected with the school-room, reminding such as might ever chance not to be effectually reminded at their homes of some of the best purposes for which the Lord gave us cold water. And so, musing on the intimate connection between good learning and good washing, and how close akin is cleanliness to godliness even, we were half disposed to come here to-day and ask a special appropriation for sinks. And particularly, as the summer comes round again, do we believe that that sink, if true to its mission, will prove a steadfast ally with the teacher in preserving that excellent moral influence which she has thus far maintained over the pupils, and which has so elevated the school above its condition in former years.



The condition of the schools, which we have thus detailed, has never appeared to us, on the whole, so favorable. The teachers, without an exception, seem interested in their work, and successful. The several Prudential Committees have likewise been assiduous in the discharge of their duties. They have been oftener present at the examinations ; and in various ways, as we have known, have aimed to promote the comfort both of the teachers and pupils, and to improve the schools placed partly under their oversight. The pupils have generally attended at the examinations. Comparatively few absences have been noted, except for sickness. We present the following tables, a summary for the last two years of the number of children entered during the closing term, the number belonging at the closing examination, and the number then present in each school in town.

1846 - 47.				1847 - 48.			
421 legal school-children.				447 legal school-children.			
	No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.		No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.
H. S.	120	103	89	H. S.	54	48	44
H. G. S. not instituted.				H. G. S.	109	94	70
No. I.	53	46	35	No. I.	53	43	39
" II.	38	35	28	" II.	50	49	45
" III.	59	45	39	" III.	62	43	35
" IV.	57	48	35	" IV.	44	42	34
" V.	54	49	36	" V.	48	34	24
" VI.	56	47	39	" VI.	44	42	37
	437	373	301		464	395	328

By legal school-children we understand all in town between the ages of four and sixteen. A few here, as in every town, below and above those ages severally, are in attendance at the public schools, thus making the number enrolled on the several School Registers a little larger than the number returned by the Assessors in May, each year.

The Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, Hon. Horace Mann, has this year appended to his Eleventh Annual Report a table in which all the towns of the State are arranged according to the average attendance of their children upon the public schools for 1846 - 47. He takes the number of legal school-children in each town, and the number expressing their average attendance on the schools, both which data are



annually returned to him by the School Committees. Comparing these two, he expresses in decimals their ratio one to the other, and classes the town accordingly. Brighton stands 48th on the list of 311 towns now embraced in the State, in the average attendance of its school-children. No towns in our vicinity stand above us except Charlestown, Lexington, Medford, and West Cambridge, of which Charlestown is 32d. While below stand Watertown, 112; Roxbury, 133; Waltham, 153; Quincy, 180; Concord, 190; Lowell, 193; Cambridge, 233; Newton, 244; Brookline, 265; Boston, 287; and, lowest of all, Tisbury, 311, a town ten miles long and five wide, situated on Martha's Vineyard, in Dukes County. We can omit no opportunity of calling to your notice the untiring labors of this devoted and useful public servant, and of commending to the perusal of all who feel any interest in the cause of education his most valuable Annual Reports, which are deposited in our School Libraries. His last Report, which we have lately placed in your hands, is replete with important and interesting considerations, which, it would seem, no parent or friend of the young could read without being stirred to new efforts in the cause of education, if only to secure the regular attendance of children at their schools. Let the table to which we have drawn attention — another of the means by which the Secretary is seeking to awaken further the conscience of our people to their duties in relation to the education of the young — incite all parents to enforce the regular and punctual attendance of their children at school, as from obligations most solemn. Let our town, which has stood and still stands so high in its relative amount of school money to each school-child, stand as high in the regular attendance it can present of each child at school.

## APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

We plead guilty to having expended, the last year, 68 cents more than you placed at our disposal. The town appropriation was \$2,300, increased, by the town's portion



from the State School Fund, to \$ 2,373.49. We have approved bills, —

For Instruction in High School, . . . . .	\$ 836.35
“ “ in Harvard Grammar School, . . . . .	247.50
“ “ in Six District Schools, . . . . .	1,064.85
“ Fuel, as entered on page 4 of Auditors' Rep., . . . . .	194.63
“ Items of Fuel not distributed, on pages 7 and 8 of Auditors' Report, . . . . .	6.34
E. Willard's bill for Fuel, not presented in time to be entered, . . . . .	24.50
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,374.17
Appropriation, . . . . .	\$ 2,373.49
	<hr/>

.68

The number of persons in town in May last, between the ages of four and sixteen, was 447 ; males 237, females 210 ; —an increase of 26 over the number of the preceding year. The graduated table prepared by Mr. Mann, showing the comparative amount of money appropriated in 1846 — 47, in the several towns, for the education of each child between the ages of four and sixteen, places Brighton *fifth* on the list. Last year she stood tenth. Now four towns only of the 311 in the State are above us. We present the following table, showing the rank which Brighton has held in the scale each year since the establishment of the Massachusetts Board of Education, with the corresponding amount of money appropriated by the town, and the number of legal school-children.

Year.	Population.	School-children.	Appropriation.	Rank.
1837.	1,337	337	\$ 1,000	—
1838 — 39.	“	338	1,200	—
1839 — 40.	“	323	1,200	—
1840 — 41.	1,425	321	1,000	37
1841 — 42.	“	319	2,000	1
1842 — 43.	“	334	2,000	1
1843 — 44.	“	359	2,000	3
1844 — 45.	“	361	2,000	6
1845 — 46.	1,837	411	2,000	10
1846 — 47.	“	421	2,300	5
1847 — 48.	“	447	2,300	—
1848 — 49.	2,200 (probably)	—	2,700	—



In 1837 there were but four public schools in town. Now we have eight. It will be seen from the above table, that, with a most commendable liberality, the town has from time to time increased her appropriation with the growing numbers of her children. From the data here presented, we are emboldened to ask for the coming year a small addition to last year's appropriation.

## RECOMMENDATION.

Your Committee recommend that the sum of twenty-seven hundred dollars be appropriated, the ensuing year, for the support of schools. This sum will enable you to sustain the present order of schools, and to commence in the fall of the year a second Grammar School in the northeast section of the town. For this, we feel, there will be a just demand, not only for the better accommodation of the inhabitants of that section, but likewise for the relief of the existing schools, which must otherwise be so overburdened as to require the aid of more teachers. We believe that with this appropriation each portion of the town may be better accommodated than ever before, and the character of the schools still improved. And when, in looking over the list of appropriations, we find that one year the town advanced its grant one thousand dollars, and this, too, when in a less thriving and prosperous condition than now, we do not believe that the citizens will be unwilling, at this time, to advance four hundred dollars above the appropriation which has been stationary two years. We do, therefore, propose the above-named sum to be raised, with the understanding, that, in the coming autumn, a master's school, a second town Grammar School, be established as before described, for the better accommodation of the inhabitants of the north and east portions of the town, an accommodation for which they have long asked and have patiently waited.

With these statements and suggestions the Committee close their Report, trusting that the progress which the schools seem making may be unchecked through the coming year, — that the



interest which exists among us in the cause of education, so vital to our truest welfare, may be sustained, and humbly invoking on the efforts of us all, teachers and pupils, committees and citizens, parents and guardians of the young, the Divine blessing.

In behalf of the Committee.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	} <i>Superintending</i>
JAMES M. WHITTEMORE,	
JAMES L. L. F. WARREN,	

*School Committee.*

*Brighton, March 6, 1848.*

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At the town meeting, March 6, it was voted that this Report be accepted, and printed, as usual, for the use of the inhabitants.

It was also voted, that twenty-seven hundred dollars be appropriated for the ensuing year, as recommended therein.



## APPENDIX.

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### SCHOOL COMMITTEES OF BRIGHTON.

FIRST APPOINTED IN 1820.

#### 1820 and 1821.

Elijah White.  
Jonathan Livermore, Jr.  
Thaddeus Baldwin.

#### 1822.

Thaddeus Baldwin.  
Elijah White.  
Nathaniel Griggs.

#### 1823.

Thaddeus Baldwin.  
Abel Merriam.  
Samuel Davis.

#### 1824.

Thaddeus Baldwin.  
Samuel Davis.  
Nathaniel Griggs.

#### 1825.

Samuel Brooks.  
S. Burlingame.  
James Greenwood.  
Thomas Park.  
Jonathan Livermore.  
Henry H. Learnard.  
Nathaniel Griggs.  
Daniel Draper.  
Francis Winship.

#### 1826.

Thomas Park.  
Horace Pierce.  
Samuel Dudley.  
James Greenwood.  
Isaac Smith.  
Samuel Tilton.  
Edmund Rice.  
Francis Winship.  
Oliver Livermore.

#### 1827.

Francis Winship.  
William P. Matchett.  
Thaddeus Baldwin.  
Elijah White, Jr.  
Samuel Davis.

#### 1828.

Stutely Burlingame.  
Abraham Edwards.  
Cephas Brackett.  
Charles Heard.  
Jonathan Livermore.

#### 1829.

Daniel Austin.  
Edmund Rice.  
Charles Heard.  
Joseph Warren.  
Horace Pierce.



**1830.**

Daniel Austin.  
Jonathan Winship.  
Joseph Warren.  
Charles Heard.  
Edmund Rice.

**1831.**

Judson Murdock.  
Jonathan Winship.  
Joseph Warren.  
Edmund Rice.  
Charles Heard.

**1832.**

Josiah Bigelow.  
Jonathan Hastings.  
Samuel Dudley.  
George R. Hichborn.  
Samuel Sanger.

**1833.**

Daniel Austin.  
William Adams.  
James M. Whittemore.  
William Warren, Jr.  
James L. L. F. Warren.

**1834.**

Jonas Wilder.  
Danforth Davis.  
Oliver Cook.

**1835.**

William Warren, Jr.  
George R. Hichborn.  
Charles Warren.  
Benjamin F. Pierce.  
Josiah Bigelow.

**1836.**

Daniel Austin.  
Bela Greenwood.  
George W. Hagar.  
Moses M. Rice.  
Horace Pierce.

**1837.**

William Warren.  
J. M. Pierce.  
David Hart.  
Bela Greenwood.  
Jonas Wilder.

**1838.**

Edmund Rice, Jr.  
S. Lamson.  
James L. L. F. Warren.  
Nathan Carruth.  
Daniel Kingsley.

**1839.**

William Warren.  
Josiah ~~Butler~~ *Rutter*.  
Bela Greenwood.  
George Matchett.  
Edmund Rice, Jr.

**1840.**

William Warren.  
George Matchett.  
Bela Greenwood.

**1841.**

William Warren.  
John S. Kelly.  
Bela Greenwood.



**1842.**

Abner D. Jones.  
 John R. Adams.  
 William Warren.  
 George R. Hichborn.  
 John S. Kelly.

**1843.**

John R. Adams.  
 John S. Kelly.  
 George R. Hichborn.

**1844.**

John S. Kelly.  
 John R. Adams.  
 Frederic A. Whitney.  
 Z. L. Raymond.  
 George R. Hichborn.

**1845.**

John R. Adams.  
 Frederic A. Whitney.  
 Z. L. Raymond.

**1846.**

John R. Adams.  
 Frederic A. Whitney.  
 James M. Whittemore.

**1847.**

Frederic A. Whitney.  
 James M. Whittemore.  
 James L. L. F. Warren.

**1848.**

Frederic A. Whitney.  
 Arthur Swazey.  
 James M. Whittemore.







ELEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1848 - 49.

CAMBRIDGE:

METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1849.







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## REPORT.

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### TO THE CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON :

YOUR School Committee have once more fulfilled, not as they could wish, but as they have been able, the important office which you confided to them at the commencement of the municipal year. In submitting the Eleventh Annual Report of the Board, they are more than ever impressed with the magnitude of the subject with which they have been charged, in the increased and still increasing attention which it is daily receiving from the wise and good, — in the growing public sentiment setting so strongly and unequivocally throughout the Commonwealth in favor of a complete popular education.

It is made their duty\* to detail for you the condition of your Public Schools, and to present such statements and suggestions as they shall deem necessary to promote the interests thereof. Did no other consideration prompt you, the statute, which creates their office, bids you demand of them an account of their stewardship.

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\* The statute is in these words : — “ The School Committee shall annually make a *detailed report* of the condition of the several Public Schools in their respective cities and towns, which report shall contain such statements and suggestions in relation to said schools as the said Committee shall deem necessary or proper to promote the interests thereof; and a certified copy of such report shall be transmitted to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, on or before the last day of April. Said report shall also be deposited in the office of the clerk of the city or town, and shall either be read in open town meeting in the month of February, March, or April, or, at the discretion of the School Committee, shall be printed for the use of the inhabitants.”

As only a small part of the inhabitants are usually present at the town meeting, it would perhaps be better, did time permit, that the Committee should print and circulate their report before the meeting. The statute, it will be perceived, authorizes this. By special vote of the town, the reports have been printed since the year 1840, inclusive.



## LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR.

The course which was adopted in 1845, of closing the school year on the Saturday previous to the annual Town Meeting in March, has been found, in all respects, most judicious. As was suggested by the Committee in recommending the course, the closing of all school accounts is made coincident with the closing of all other civil matters, and the School Committee report when their term of office expires. Your annual meeting having been convened on this, the second, rather than on the first, Monday of March, as usual, you will perceive that one week is added to the past year; and, consequently, that a small increase of expenditure is incurred for the wages of those teachers whose compensation is rendered for weekly service. It will appear, nevertheless, that the Committee have kept their expenditure for wages and fuel within the appropriation. By as much, moreover, as the past year has been thus lengthened, and the teachers' hire extended, by so much, also, will the coming year be shortened, should your next annual March meeting be appointed, as is most probable, on the first Monday of the month.

## COMMITTEE.

The meetings of the School Committee, the examinations of the schools, together with additional visits, counting those, only, made at times and for purposes prescribed by the law, have been, during the past year, in number, one hundred and twenty-one. These have been shared by your Committee, as their engagements would permit, in proportion as the numbers 22, 37, 62. Some of these single services have occupied whole days, some entire evenings, and many entire half days. And yet, when your Committee consider what important interests are involved in the institution and management of the public schools, — how they demand the best judgment for the adjustment of difficulties ever incident to the system, — how teachers need the ready coöperation of the Committee, — how vigilant should be a Committee and earnest, that the schools be doing their appointed work, morally as well as intellectually,



for your children, and not lagging behind in the course of improvement, — they cannot but feel, in the survey of their past labors, how much has still remained to be accomplished. The doings of the Committee for the year, together with a minute account of the appearance of the schools at each of the three examinations, are entered in the records of the Board, and open for the inspection of any who may wish more detail than could well be presented in the Report.

### SCHOOL-HOUSES.

Few of the school buildings have needed any important repairs the past year. A furnace has been placed in the cellar of the Town Hall, in the lower story of which building is kept the Harvard Grammar School ; and one, also, in the cellar of the Academy. The upper story of the school-house of District No. 1 has been prepared and furnished with school chairs and desks, at an expense of about \$280, for the Second Grammar School. The houses of Nos. 2 and 3 still labor under the serious disadvantage of having no separate play-ground attached ; and the children, consequently, are turned too immediately into the street. Some trifling repairs will be needed in the interior of No. 4, in the May vacation. The interior of No. 5 is now suffering for want of paint. This building, as we reported last year, had then recently been removed from its situation on Washington street, so perilous to the safety of little children, and surrounded with a spacious and well inclosed play-ground. We have now to add, and would highly commend, the gratuitous service of the Prudential Committee, and others of the District associated with him, who procured and planted forest-trees around the borders of the play-ground, — grateful to the eye, and promising soon their welcome shade to benefit alike the body, mind, and heart. The school-house of No. 6 is in excellent condition, but its play-ground is not yet inclosed, the building having been removed to its present location on Allston street shortly before we reported last. The Academy on Rockland street will, before long, require some enlargement for the wants of the High School. It will be perceived by the numbers given, that nearly all the seats, of which there are but 56, have been occupied the last term. There is



no space for more ; and the apartment is rather too small for the health of so many pupils. Scholars are fast reaching, in the Grammar Schools, the requisite qualifications for admission here. Even if the space embraced by the projecting roof at each end of the building were inclosed and connected with the upper or High School room, that would be materially enlarged. The quiet situation of this building, in summer so delightfully shaded by the surrounding grove, renders it peculiarly suitable for schools. It is not pleasant to you, we know, to hear of any needed alterations or repairs, as herewith presented. It is not pleasant to us, therefore, to present them. But our duty to report to you the wants of the schools allows us no choice between the pleasant and the unpleasant details, so far as they will concern your own action. We seek to act the part of the wise physician, who must often recommend the unpalatable drug, though we are well aware that, as his patients sometimes treat his pills, you, too, may heed our suggestions, and throw them out of the window when we have gone.

Subject, then, to the above limitations, your Committee report the school-houses as in very good condition on the whole. In relation to buildings, they believe the only true economy consists in keeping them always in complete repair. And in relation to good schools, as we have ever insisted, the advantage of having apartments sufficiently spacious, well ventilated, comfortable, and attractive to the young, can hardly be overstated. In few respects, perhaps, has there been greater improvement within the last ten years, through the Commonwealth, than in the architectural appearance, in the convenience and comfort, of school-houses. Says the late Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, Hon. Horace Mann, speaking, in his Tenth Annual Report, from personal observation, — “ In 1837, not one third part of the public school-houses in Massachusetts would have been considered tenantable by any decent family, out of the poor-house or in it.” Now, we rejoice to add, there is manifested in all quarters a commendable desire to make these buildings all they should be. Let our own, which have, hitherto, been well cared for, and given our town, in this respect, a good name, be still generously regarded and improved from year to year.



## TEACHERS.

Twelve different teachers have been employed during the year ; of whom seven were of our own town. The number employed the previous year, with one school less, was eighteen, showing that, in this respect, we have had less rotation in office. One was educated at Harvard University, one at Dartmouth College ; one had been connected with a State Normal School ; three had been educated at other Seminaries, and six at your High School. Ten of the whole number were employed in our schools during the previous year, and the two new teachers commenced their labors in June and in December severally.

## CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

Of the condition of the Public Schools we shall, perhaps, best inform you by presenting an abstract of the minutes recorded at the three examinations in July, November, and this present month. This we proceed to do in the order of the schools.

### EXAMINATIONS.

#### HIGH SCHOOL.

Teacher, Mr. John Ruggles, of Milton.

##### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	54
Boys, 27 ; Girls, 27.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	33
Boys, 14 ; Girls, 19.	
Present, . . . . .	31
Boys, 12 ; Girls, 19.	

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	45
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 23.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	44
Boys, 21 ; Girls, 23.	
Present, . . . . .	41
Boys, 20 ; Girls, 21.	



*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	52
Boys, 25 ; Girls, 27.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	50
Boys, 23 ; Girls, 27.	
Present, . . . . .	47
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 25.	

At the first examination, the second and third classes in Arithmetic, the first in Algebra, and the first in Grammar, were very correct. A class in General History gave great satisfaction by their ready and full replies to the questions proposed. The first class in French was reported superior ; the second not as correct in pronunciation, but as correct in translating. Class in Natural Philosophy, on Matter and its Properties, accurate. The first class in Latin not as good as usual. Reading superior, especially of Poetry. Penmanship not quite as good as has been shown here. English Compositions superior. Order good. General and punctual attendance for the term.

At the second examination, as at the first, some of the exercises were conducted wholly, and all in part, by the Committee, and improvement was noticed particularly in the first class in Latin, in French, and in the Writing-Books. A second class in Latin recited very accurately. Exercises in Natural Philosophy, embracing the subjects of Hydraulics, Pneumatics, Hydrostatics, and Acoustics, were very satisfactory. Besides the other branches before presented to us, the study of Astronomy had been pursued, and a class in this appeared well. Of the three pupils absent, two were sick.

The last examination was conducted in the Harvard Grammar School room, — the High School room not being spacious enough for the attendance of visitors. It was held through the day. Classes were presented in Arithmetic, Algebra, and Surveying ; in Geography, and in History, general and local ; in English Grammar ; in Natural Philosophy, embracing Optics and Electricity ; in Astronomy, in Latin and French, in Reading, English Compositions, and Declamation ; and were examined in all these branches, with one exception. The exercises



as a whole were superior to those of the former examinations, and were highly satisfactory. We were entertained with very sweet Singing from the pupils, assisted by their teacher, and would omit no opportunity of commending this practice in all our schools, both for its moral and physical advantages. The teacher has a rare gift in making good Readers of his pupils. The Declamation was very good ; and the Reading of Select Pieces by several of the girls gave evidence of a correct taste in the selection, and delighted us all by the beauty of the sentiments as by the excellence of the reading. We would call particular attention to the well written Compositions which have been furnished, each term, in this school. Three pupils only were absent at the final examination, and these from sufficient cause. A very numerous attendance of their parents and friends rewarded them with their approbation for the application to their studies and for the general proficiency which was exhibited ; and their teacher, for his faithfulness and for his accurate scholarship, which he makes more manifest each year in the culture of those placed under his charge.

#### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Teacher, Mr. Solomon A. Poore, of Dorchester.

##### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	100
Boys, 58 ; Girls, 42.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	68
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 35.	
Present, . . . . .	56
Boys, 28 ; Girls, 28.	

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	81
Boys, 47 ; Girls, 34.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	71
Boys, 39 ; Girls, 32.	
Present, . . . . .	60
Boys, 31 ; Girls, 29.	

##### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	69
Boys, 40 ; Girls, 29.	



Belonging to the school,	63
Boys, 36 ; Girls, 27.	
Present,	51
Boys, 26 ; Girls, 25.	

The opening of the Second Grammar School, it will be perceived, had affected these numbers. The teacher reports to us, " Six have left the school within a week of its close, who will probably return at the beginning of the next term."

The three examinations of this school have been very satisfactory. At the first, exercises in Reading and Spelling, in Arithmetic, Geography with the outline maps, History, and Grammar, were conducted partly by the Committee. At the second, the same course was pursued by them, and they could discern particular improvement in several branches. They took notice that some of the pupils had not been once absent through the term. At the last, held through the day, a large number of the friends of the pupils were present, and expressed themselves highly gratified, as were the Committee, at the appearance of the school. The same method in writing Compositions as detailed in the last Report had been pursued ; and those presented to us were, with very few exceptions, creditable to the age and attainments of their authors. We might specify particular pupils who have improved in Penmanship, and the Writing-Books generally appeared neat and well. The room is kept with great care, and the order of the school continues as last year reported, remarkably good. The exercises have been diversified by very agreeable Singing, though the teacher is not a singer. Of course, we do not look here either for that advancement in studies, or, on the whole, for that general accuracy, which distinguishes the High School, to which pupils are admitted by a fixed standard of qualifications. Of necessity, some are enrolled here, too old for the Primary Schools, who, from want of early advantages, or from other causes, are very backward. Should this class increase, and the numbers of the school continue as great as now, your Committee see no other alternative but to employ a female assistant with the Principal, to drill these scholars in the elements usually taught in the Primary Schools. With these obstacles to con-



tend with, we are the more gratified that the teacher has been able to present us with so good a school. We believe him to have been faithful and remarkably successful.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Teacher, Mr. Mark Fisher Duncklee, of Newport, Me.

### *First and Recent Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	60
Boys, 34 ; Girls, 26.		
Belonging to the school,	. . . . .	54
Boys, 31 ; Girls, 23.		
Present,	. . . . .	45
Boys, 25 ; Girls, 20.		

By your concurrence with the recommendation of your Committee at the last annual meeting, and by your ready appropriation of a sum of money for the purpose, this second Grammar School was opened on the 4th of December last, under the charge of Mr. Duncklee, a graduate of Dartmouth College. He was employed to teach the school until the Saturday previous to the annual March meeting, and has thus kept fourteen weeks, at a compensation of ten dollars per week. We believe him to have been diligent and faithful, but not particularly successful with this school. His task has been hard, the numbers of the pupils large, and they of various attainments. We examined classes in Reading and Spelling, in Geography and History, in Arithmetic and Grammar ; and while some of them appeared well, they were not generally correct and satisfactory. A few of the pupils, whom we have traced in their progress through the Primary Schools, we might particularly commend for their good attainments. There are some very fine Grammar School scholars here, and we trust there will soon be more. The general order and stillness of the school was much beneath the mark which must at once be set up and attained in every Grammar School in our town. The day was very stormy, and nine out of fifty-four pupils were absent ; yet we were gratified with the presence of some of the friends of the pupils. The appearance of the room was very neat. It is not yet furnished with a set of maps, which,



at least, will be deemed indispensable to a good Grammar School. But with the first necessary accommodations of a school-room it has been well provided, under the direction of your Board of Selectmen.

As the support of this school will increase a little the required appropriation for the coming year, your Committee present briefly such considerations as have led them, with one consent, to recommend its continuance. It was begun by the joint concurrence and action of the Selectmen with the Committee, from a persuasion last year, reported to you, of the great need of such a school for the accommodation of the north and east sections of the town. That persuasion has been only strengthened from past experience. We feel more than ever assured of the need of the best Grammar School which we can maintain for that section. While the other schools for pupils above ten years of age have been full, here have been entered sixty scholars, some of them well advanced in school years, in urgent need of good instruction. With several of them, their school-days will soon be past. For themselves, and for the town, it is a serious question with what opportunities shall they still be favored. We believe, that, with such a school as may be maintained in their midst, very few will be disposed to forego, even for the summer, the privilege of attendance. The pupils could not be placed in the Harvard Grammar School without serious inconvenience, nor without an additional teacher. Besides, we feel that the town could not now refuse to sustain an annual Grammar School for the north and east, without injustice to those sections. We therefore recommend that such a school be resumed as soon as practicable; and would earnestly entreat of our successors in office, into whose hands the school, if it is to be continued, is now committed, that they bestow on it, through the coming year, their most careful and unremitting services.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### DISTRICT No. I.

Teacher, Miss Susanna M. Duncklee, of Brighton.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. Lorenzo M. Dyer.



*First Examination.*

Number through the term,	59
“ belonging to the school,	37
“ present,	33

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	44
“ belonging to the school,	41
“ present,	33

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	33
“ belonging to the school,	31
“ present,	26

This school maintains its good character. The teacher is entering on her third year of very successful service. Minutes at the first examination report :—Reading by the third and fourth classes, pretty well ; by the first, superior ; by the second, well ; and by these in concert, superior. First in Oral Arithmetic, remarkably accurate ; second, well. Class in Written Arithmetic, accurate. Class in Grammar, not much advanced. Class in Natural Philosophy, very accurate. Classes in Geography and History, well. At the second examination, class in Grammar improving. First class in History, well. Classes in Geography, well. In Arithmetic, as before. Reading, very good. Spelling by the second class rather more correct than by the first. At the third examination, the classes marked superior were the first in Philosophy, in Arithmetic, in Geography, and in Reading. The day was stormy, but a good number of the district were present, with the Prudential Committee. At each examination, the School Register and Writing-Books were well reported, together with the neat appearance of the pupils and of the room. Order very good, particularly at the last examination. Whispering was hardly noticed. A few compositions were presented at the second examination. A set of the outline maps is wanted in this school. Most friendly relations, as should be, appear to exist between the teacher and her pupils.

## DISTRICT No. II.

Teacher, Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Joshua Harrington.



*First Examination.*

Number through the term,	65
“ belonging to the school,	56
“ present,	54

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	62
“ belonging to the school,	55
“ present,	55

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	56
“ belonging to the school,	51
“ present,	45

At the first examination we were happy to find, that, through the efforts of the teacher, a set of the outline maps had been procured by subscription, and were in successful use in the school. The exercises in Geography were never more satisfactory. The first class of Readers was marked superior, and classes in Arithmetic and in Philosophy were accurate. At the second examination, Recitations in Arithmetic and in Philosophy were particularly commended. At the last, the exercises, on the whole, were about as correct as we have ever witnessed. In Reading, we found some cases of very manifest improvement. In Arithmetic, oral and written, we found the classes well instructed and ready. Three classes in Geography showed proficiency and great benefit from the use of their maps. Spelling good. Order as good as we can show in our Primary Schools. School Register and Writing-books neat, and improvement in Penmanship. Very pleasant Singing. A few Compositions presented at the last two examinations. Several friends of the pupils present at each examination, and at the last a very large attendance. The teacher has been employed one year and two terms successively, and manifests the true tact in teaching, and in the discipline of children.

## DISTRICT No. III.

Teachers, Miss Catherine A. Matchett, of Brighton, and Miss Susan L. Holbrook, of East Lexington.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. Joseph Duncklee.



*First Examination.*

Number through the term,	68
“ belonging to the school,	52
“ present,	46

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	61
“ belonging to the school,	59
“ present,	56

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	55
“ belonging to the school,	51
“ present,	47

At the close of the second term, Miss Matchett resigned the charge of this school, which she had held one year and one term. Of both her examinations the reports are very satisfactory. She evinces particular felicity in teaching Arithmetic, and Geography with the use of the outline maps. She keeps the minds of her pupils awake. There was happy life in all the exercises. They were frequently relieved by very sweet Singing from the children and teacher. Reading and Spelling very good. School Register and room very neat. The Prudential Committee and a large number of visitors present at the second examination. The order was good ; not that absolute stillness which is more particularly to be desired and expected among older pupils in Grammar and High Schools than among little children, but that which a wise writer on education pronounces the best order for primaries, namely, absolute control, — the stillness which a look from the teacher, or a touch of the bell, produces. At the first examination we were entertained with Declamation from some of the young primary orators. The numbers of the pupils had been large each term, — English, Irish, German. The teacher went through a hard work well. Nature, in our judgment, says to her very unequivocally, You must not give up teaching yet.

And the second teacher, who had charge of the school the last term, has been well known among us for her previous success in her vocation. She had taught this school from Decem-



ber, 1845, until August, 1847, with the approbation of former Committees, as expressed in their Reports, and to the general satisfaction of the families. At the closing examination, we marked the classes in Arithmetic and Geography as the highest. The youngest classes in Reading, Spelling, and Miscellaneous Exercises, gratified us by the interest they manifested in their work, and by their ready replies. The first class of Readers was commended for correct emphasis. Order good, and the appearance of the school-room very neat. The Prudential Committee, and several of the friends of the pupils, were present at the last examination. The teacher, we were happy to find, had entered in the Register the names of those parents, or others, who had visited the school during the term. The visits of the Committee are required to be entered. She relinquishes, we learn, the office of teacher, and retires, a second time, from the school in which she has given two years of useful and acceptable service.

#### DISTRICT No. IV.

Teacher, Miss Catharine Stearns, of Lancaster.

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. B. Mason.

##### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	60
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	50
“ present,	. . . . .	48

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	55
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	51
“ present,	. . . . .	44

##### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	61
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	55
“ present,	. . . . .	49

Satisfactory excuse was presented to us by the teacher for each case of absence at the three examinations, — a regard on her part for the regular attendance of the pupils, which we are happy to notice and commend. At the first examination, we



listened with pleasure to the exercises in Reading, Spelling, &c., from the youngest children, whom the teacher has a happy faculty of interesting and instructing. Three classes in Arithmetic and two in Geography were very correct. A class examined by the Committee in the elements of Natural Philosophy made not one incorrect reply. The first class of Readers was very good; and reading in concert, both by them and by the second class, was excellent. At the second examination, the exercises were very satisfactory. No class came before us in any branch whom we could pronounce deficient in such acquaintance with the subject as we had a right to demand; and at the last, some twenty of the friends of the pupils were present, to whom we might refer you for the general appearance of the school. It had been interrupted a few weeks by the illness of the teacher, and we awarded the more credit, accordingly, that, notwithstanding this, the Recitations were generally so good. We examined the several classes in Arithmetic, Geography, Natural Philosophy, and Reading and Spelling. Some Dialogues were spoken by the pupils with correct emphasis and good effect. The Singing was very generally shared by the pupils. At each examination, the School Register and Writing-Books looked well. A beautiful Globe had been procured by subscription, and was used at the last examination, in illustration of Geography and Philosophy. While all our schools are well provided with black-boards, so necessary in teaching, and most of them with sets of maps, they have not all this most needful article of school apparatus, — a good Globe. The teacher possesses rather uncommon tact, both in the management and instruction of children, and so succeeds.

#### DISTRICT No. V.

Teachers, Miss Mary E. Dana and Miss Sarah E. Waugh,  
both of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. B. F. Pierce.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	49
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	41
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	32



*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	52
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	45
“ present,	. . . . .	40

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	44
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	39
“ present,	. . . . .	29
Ten were sick.		

Miss Dana, a teacher of the former year, and whose last examination was favorably detailed in the last Report, resigned the charge of this school on the 6th of May. The three examinations of the past year have been under Miss Waugh. At the first, the first class in Arithmetic, first in Reading, and first in Grammar, were marked superior. Spelling, accurate. Recitations in Geography, very satisfactory. Good attendance of the friends of the pupils. In November, we examined a class in Natural Philosophy, in addition to the other branches, who appeared well. At the last examination, we had some exercises in Arithmetic, and, from the first class in Geography and Grammar, about as perfect as we have ever witnessed in the Primary Schools. We took particular notice of one pupil who had not been once absent during the term, and of several who had been absent but a very few times. Pleasant Singing. School Register, well kept. Writing-Books, neat. The youngest pupils appeared to be making progress in the elements of knowledge. Sickness among the children had caused many absences and much interruption in the studies. The Prudential Committee was present, but not so many besides as we have been accustomed to see here. The teacher appears to us very thorough in her method of instruction, and some particular instances of improvement among the pupils were noticed.

## DISTRICT No. VI.

Teachers, Miss Lydia N. Hastings and Miss Anna B. Smith.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. Abel Merriam.



*First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	46
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	43
“ present,	. . . . .	41

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	50
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	39
“ present,	. . . . .	33

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	28
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	25
“ present,	. . . . .	24

This school, as those of Nos. III. and V., has been under the charge of two teachers successively, the past year. Miss Hastings, who had taught here with signal success, more than two years, left the school on the 26th of May last. While we should all have gladly retained her services longer, she appeared to have no better excuse to give than the old one in the parable, which we have before been obliged to put up with, when good teachers have been withdrawn from valuable service to the town, namely, that she had married a husband, and therefore she could not come. Of the examinations, all held under Miss Smith, we report of the first, (present all of the Committee,) the three classes in Geography, very accurate. One in History and one in Philosophy, well. First class in Reading, very good ; second, third, and fourth, well. Classes in Arithmetic, oral and written, generally correct. Pleasant Singing. School Register and room, in excellent order. Numbers large. At the second examination, all the classes in Geography were again quite accurate. Classes examined by two of the Committee, in Oral Arithmetic and in Written Arithmetic at the black-board, appeared well. A class in Grammar, and classes in Reading and Spelling, very well. Order was marked deficient. At the third examination, the numbers were small. More had been withdrawn to the Grammar Schools, and from other causes, than had come up from the nurseries to supply their places. The good order, both in the



school and at recess, was commended by the Committee (two of the Board present). The Recitations generally were considered by them about as correct as they usually witness in the Primary Schools. The second class in Geography, first in Oral Arithmetic, a class in Natural Philosophy, and a class in Grammar, were above the average. The Committee are not always able to designate individual instances of improvement in a school. But, at the last examination, they mentioned a few names, in their closing remarks, of such as they were assured had made manifest improvement, — a matter, of course, creditable alike to them and to their teacher. We regret to report, that, at the first examination, one visitor, only, was present; and at the last two examinations, not an individual came in. Such apparent want of interest, on the part of the parents and friends of the pupils, has not been witnessed by your Committee in any other district in town. A most essential condition of the best schools, we believe, is a free and confidential intercourse between the families of the pupils and their teachers.

### AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

In the Report of last year, we presented you, in tabular form, a summary, for two years, of the number of children entered during the closing term, the number belonging at the closing examination, and the number present on that day in each school in town. We here add a similar summary for the last year, and place the three tables together for reference and comparison. You may see at a glance, in regard to every school, the numbers entered, belonging, present at a given season, and whether any school has gradually increased, or diminished, or remained stationary in numbers, during three years. It will be remembered that the High School in 1846-7 embraced the Harvard Grammar School, with an assistant teacher, and that the numbers (unmerciful for one teacher) which are entered in the table for 1847-8, under the Harvard Grammar School, have since been diminished by the establishment of the Second Grammar School.



## 1846 - 7.

## 421 legal school-children.\*

	No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.
H. S.	120	103	89
H. G. S. not instituted.			
No. I.	53	46	35
" II.	38	35	28
" III.	59	45	39
" IV.	57	48	35
" V.	54	49	36
" VI.	56	47	39
	<u>437</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>301</u>

## 1847 - 8.

## 447 legal school-children.

	No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.
H. S.	54	48	44
H. G. S.	109	94	70
No. I.	53	43	39
" II.	50	49	45
" III.	62	43	35
" IV.	44	42	34
" V.	48	34	24
" VI.	44	42	37
	<u>464</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>328</u>

## 1848 - 9.

## 496 legal school-children.

	No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.
H. S.	52	50	47
H. G. S.	69	63	51
2d G. S.	60	54	45
No. I.	33	31	26
" II.	56	51	45
" III.	55	51	47
" IV.	61	55	49
" V.	44	39	29
" VI.	28	25	24
	<u>458</u>	<u>419</u>	<u>363</u>

Thirty-five more pupils were present at the closing examinations than in the previous year, while the number entered on the several public School Registers during the closing term was six less. Two private schools, it may be stated, were kept at the time of making these returns; the names of whose pupils of course, are not on the public Registers. It appears, then, in regard to this last term, that, while less have been entered, more have been present at the close than in the previous year. This is rather encouraging. The late Secretary of the Board of Education has again appended to his Annual Report a list of all the towns in the Commonwealth, arranged according to the average attendance of their children on the public schools. We explained, in our last Report, his method. According to the same plan for 1847 - 8, Brighton stands 65th on the list of the 313 towns, having returned, for that year, 447 children between four and sixteen years of age, and an average attendance of 344. No city or town, nearer than West Cambridge is

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\* All in town between the ages of four and sixteen.



above us, and that stands 57. Concord, in 1846-7, was 190 ; is now reported 44. A great gain in one year ! She reports 60 school-children less in town than the year previous, but the average attendance 32 more. Roxbury stands 94 ; Waltham, 188 ; Watertown, 189 ; Lowell, 245 ; Boston, 253 ; Cambridge, 256 ; Salem, 264 ; Dorchester, 270 ;—having 1529 legal school-children, and an average attendance of only 836. Brookline stands 280 ; Newton, 309 ; and, lowest of all, New Ashford, a small town among the hills of Berkshire, having 54 school-children, and an average attendance of fourteen.

These facts are useful for comparison. Let them incite us to make our average attendance greater, for the good of the children, and for the welfare of the schools. Irregularity of attendance is death to scholarship, as it is fatal to good schools. We are doing pretty well in this respect, but must do better. We beg of you, parents, not to suffer your children to stay at home from any excuse but sickness, or when, by accident, we give you such cold school-rooms, or Providence sends such storms, as will induce sickness. Why should we stand 65th in this matter, though that may be better than 313th ? Have not idle pleas been sometimes accepted by you for your children's absence from school, forenoon, or afternoon, or all day ? Are not eight weeks of regular vacation, with numerous other holidays, enough for recreation and amusement ? We trace on those Registers each half-day's absence, or irregularity. This all may be forgotten, or perish with the frail leaf itself. But so little a matter as that habit of disregarding school, that habit of needless absence, or tardiness, where most sacred duty calls, will not be forgotten. That is stamping itself on a more enduring Register. That is weaving in, unseen, unheard, like each bad habit, one evil thread into the very texture of your child's soul. That very little habit is doing more than you imagine to determine your child's whole after usefulness and respectability in the world, and the true honor of the man, or woman, before God.

## THE LYCEUM.

Your Committee consider an allusion to the course of valu-



able Lyceum Lectures, with which our citizens have been favored the past winter, as legitimately within their province, so immediately is this institution connected with the intellectual improvement of the young. Two hundred dollars were raised by the sale of tickets, and the course has been attended through the winter by a very large audience, and with unabated interest. We would particularly commend the remarkable order and stillness which have been manifested, week after week, in these large gatherings, composed, in a considerable proportion, of the youths of our schools. The spacious Hall has been entirely filled. To those ladies and gentlemen, and to those pupils of our schools, who have kindly entertained us with music from the piano and flute, and with singing, before and after the Lectures in the Hall, our warmest thanks are due; and we trust that, from all, an impulse has been given, friendly alike to intellectual, moral, and social culture.

The course was opened on Tuesday evening, December 12, by Edwin P. Whipple, Esq., of Boston, by a Lecture on "Genius," and was sustained in the following order:—By John S. Holmes, Esq., of Boston, on "Self Possession"; by Charles Sumner, Esq., of Boston, on "The Law of Human Progress"; by Dr. J. V. C. Smith, of Boston, on "The Mississippi Valley"; by Dr. Oliver W. Holmes, of Boston, on "Prescription, or the History of Medicine"; by Rev. John Lord, of Boston, on "Becket, the Prelate"; by Rev. Frederic D. Huntington, of Boston, on "Manliness of Character, — Alfred the Great"; by Rev. Milton P. Braman, of Danvers, on "The Sphere and Education of Woman"; by Rev. Wm. M. Rogers, of Boston, on "Egypt"; by Peleg W. Chandler, Esq., of Boston, on "The Practical Man"; by Rev. Geo. W. Blagden, of Boston, on "The Importance of acquiring all the Knowledge possible respecting one's own Occupation"; by Rev. John Pierce, D. D., of Brookline, on "John Quincy Adams," delivered on the evening of the anniversary of his death; by Henry Giles, of Boston, on "Liberty, — its worth"; by Stephen H. Phillips, Jr., Esq., of Boston, on "The History of Maritime Nations"; by Rev. Thos. Starr King, of Boston, on "The Revelations of God in History"; by John Ruggles, Esq., Principal of the High



School, Brighton, on "The History of Music." And the concluding Lecture of the course is announced to be delivered by Hon. Rufus Choate, of Boston.

### APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

We return into the Treasury a small balance from the sum appropriated in March last, for teachers' wages and fuel. That sum was		\$ 2700.00
Town's portion * of State School Fund,		71.97
Total,		<u>\$ 2771.97</u>

We have approved bills, —

For Instruction in High School,	\$ 700.00
“ “ in Harvard Grammar School,	600.00
“ “ in Second “ “ 14 weeks,	140.00
“ “ in six District Schools,	1066.00
“ Fuel, as by Auditor's Report,	200.65
“ Items of Fuel not distributed, on pages 5 and 6 of Auditors' Report,	25.01
	<u>\$ 2731.66</u>
Appropriation,	\$ 2771.97
Expenditure,	<u>2731.66</u>
Balance,	\$ 40.31

The Assessors reported to us in May last, as the law directs, 496 persons in town between the ages of four and sixteen ; males, 253 ; females, 243 ; an increase of 49 school-children over the number of the preceding year. According to the last Report of the Secretary of the Board of Education, Ten towns, only, of the 313 in the Commonwealth, stood above us in the amount of school-money appropriated for each

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\* The statute, regulating the distribution and appropriation of the School Fund, is in these words : — “The income of the Massachusetts School Fund shall be apportioned by the Secretary and Treasurer, and paid over by the Treasurer on the 15th of January of each year to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Boston, and to the Selectmen of the several towns, *for the use of Common Schools therein*, which shall have made the returns and raised the sums of money required by the preceding section,” &c.



school-child. This apportionment took the appropriation of 1847-8 (\$2300), and the number of children in May, 1847 (447). Dividing the amount by the number we have \$5.15 as the allotted portion for each child. Brookline is reported first on the list, having appropriated for that same year \$3000, and returned 352 children; allotted portion to each \$8.52. From this, the towns decrease. Roxbury is thirteen, raising nearly \$18,000 for 2916 children; portion, \$5.10. Cambridge is fifteen, raising nearly \$16,000 for 3170 children; portion, \$4.83. Newton is 149, raising \$3125 for 1299 children; portion, \$2.41. Williamstown, in Berkshire County, is 312, raising \$900 for 737 children; portion, \$1.22. And Southwick, in Hampden, is last on the list; portion not reported. For two successive years, you occupied the place which Brookline now holds. It was done by advancing your appropriation, in 1841-2, one thousand dollars above that of the previous year, setting other towns at defiance, in a good way, for the time, and walking up from No. XXXVII. to No. I., as will be seen by the following table, enlarged upon that which we presented to you last year:—

Year.	Population.	No. of P. Schools.	School-children.	Appropriation.	Rank.
1837.	1,337	4	337	\$1,000	—
1838-39.	"	4	338	1,200	—
1839-40.	"	4	323	1,200	—
1840-41.	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841-42.	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842-43.	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843-44.	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844-45.	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845-46.	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846-47.	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847-48.	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848-49.	"	9	496	2,700	—
1849-50.	2,200 (probably)	9	— *	3,100	—

The following Table shows what amount the town has expended each year since 1840-41, for the payment of teachers' wages and for fuel, the corresponding balance over, or under, the year's appropriation, and the compensation rendered for the services of the Prudential and General School Committee.

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\* To be ascertained in May.



Year.	Teachers' wages and fuel.	Balance over or under appropriation.	Compensation to P. Committee.	Do. Gen. Committee.
1840-41.	\$ 1040.08	\$40.68 over	—	\$ 79
1841-42.	1954.83	45.17 under	—	101
1842-43.	1958.94	41.06 under	\$ 40	58
1843-44.	1994.65	5.35 under	40	85
1844-45.	1905.28	94.72 under	40	75
1845-46.	1730.05	270.95 under	40	75
1846-47.	2058.09	241.91 under	60	75
1847-48.	2374.17	74.17 over *	60	80
1848-49.	2731.66	31.66 over †	60	74

The number of public schools in town has increased since 1837 from four to nine. It may be seen by this Table, that the average annual increase of school-children for the last seven years has been twenty-six. For the last four years, it has been thirty-four. For the last two years, it has been thirty-eight. For the last year, the increase has been forty-nine, — a number about sufficient in itself for one additional school.

### RECOMMENDATION.

Your Committee have thus presented such facts and considerations as may enable you to judge of the condition and wants of your Public Schools. They have to offer their closing recommendation, and their work is done. It is, first, that we cherish a grateful sense of the good Providence which has cast our lot in a land of free schools, where equal advantages are afforded alike to the poor and the rich for advancement in all useful knowledge, and through that in Divine wisdom and virtue. They cannot but urge that that sense be manifested by a more earnest coöperation on the part of parents, teachers, committees, and all, in promoting the proper work of education, the moral as well as the mental culture of the young. They need not say, that they look upon the moral education of the young, upon their growing habits of thought, of speech, of action, upon their temper and social affections, and, above all, upon their reverence for God's holy name and their regard for his commandments, as of immeasurably more importance than all their proficiency in human learning. The Committee beg of you, in all ways, to second their endeavours and the efforts of the teachers to deliver your children from vice, and to train

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\* Portion from State Fund \$ 73.49 ; balance, .68 over.

† Portion from State Fund \$ 71.97 ; balance, \$40.31 under.



them to habits of virtue. Especially let that heaven-daring sin of profanity, concerning which there have come to your Committee, through School Reports exchanged from all parts of the Commonwealth, fearful accounts, and of which, doubtless, many children among us, whom fond parents least suspect, are already the sad subjects, meet ever with your ready rebuke and most anxious vigilance. We require of the teachers to report to us such instances as they may discover. We believe they have endeavoured to learn concerning such habits and to correct them. And did we think any teacher among us was indifferent to the subject, that presumption would, in our judgment, be sufficient for a discharge. But neither teachers nor Committees, alone, can wholly avail in this matter without the kindred influence of parents and of home.

We commend once more to your regards the able Annual Report of the late Secretary of the Board of Education, Hon. Horace Mann, recently distributed for your perusal through the several School Libraries of the town. This gentleman has held for twelve years the important office, from which he has just retired, with most distinguished success. We regard him as having opened, mainly by his own labors, a new era in the condition and progress of our Common Schools. To few public servants has more honorable testimony been borne, on retiring from office, than rises now to him in the grateful remembrance of his services which is cherished by the true friends of popular education throughout our State, and which is so well embodied in the following Resolution, transmitted to him from the Massachusetts Board of Education, through its Chairman, His Excellency the Governor : —

“ *Resolved*, That in reviewing the official course of the late Secretary of the Board, we are led to contemplate extraordinary proofs of the devotion of talents of the highest order, under the influence of the purest motives, to a work of usefulness, which, in respect alike to the magnitude and permanence of its results, and the nature and extent of the labor involved in it, may be deemed as unsurpassed in the annals of the Commonwealth.”

Nor would we withhold our satisfaction, that on the retirement of one so distinguished from a station, the discharge of whose duties involves so intimately the interests of all our schools, those duties and that station are already confided to



another \* of high literary qualifications, and earnestly interested in the cause of education, who has been for several years a member of the Massachusetts Board, and under whom we may trust that the work so auspiciously begun will be still further advanced.

And, finally, in view of the probable wants of the schools, for the coming year, your Committee recommend that the sum of thirty-one hundred dollars be raised and appropriated, as usual, for the payment of teachers' wages and for fuel ; and that, to meet the ordinary incidental expenses connected with the support of schools, a small sum to be reported at your meeting in April, be further appropriated, to be placed, also, in the hands of the Committee, and by them accounted for to you at your annual meeting in March next.

And commending these several considerations to your better judgment, and the schools and the young to the blessing of a benignant Providence, your Committee respectfully submit their Report.

In behalf of the Committee,

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	} <i>Superintending</i>
JAMES M. WHITTEMORE,	
JOHN S. KELLY,	

*School Committee.*

*Brighton, March 12, 1849.*

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Brighton, held March 12, 1849, the foregoing Report having been read, it was voted that it be accepted and printed, as usual, for distribution among the families in town.

It was also voted, that the sum of thirty-one hundred dollars be assessed and raised to be appropriated for the support of Public Schools, including the pay of teachers and of fuel only.

Attest,

WILLIAM WARREN,

*Town Clerk.*

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\* The Rev. Barnas Sears, late Professor in the Newton Theological Institution.



T W E L F T H

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

*24358.5*

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1849-50.

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CAMBRIDGE:

METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1850.







T W E L F T H

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

7175  
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CAMBRIDGE:

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1850.







# REPORT.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON :—

THE School Committee of Brighton respectfully submit to the citizens their Twelfth Annual Report.

## SCHOOL YEAR.

They had made arrangements for examining the several schools during the week previous to the first Monday in March, and for closing them on the Saturday previous to that date, before learning that the annual March meeting would be again convened on the second, and not on the first, Monday of the month. The contracts made with the teachers, by annual salaries, ended with the Saturday previous to the first Monday in March; and by continuing the schools another week, the Committee must have anticipated the appropriation for the coming year. The last week has accordingly been a vacation, as usual, and the regular school year commencing with this day, the Schools await the action of the Committee whom you shall elect for their reopening.

## FINANCIAL CONCERNS.

The Committee would clear the way to such detail of the condition of the Schools as the statute requires them to present, by reporting, first, on their use of the means you furnished them for sustaining the Schools, on your appropriation, and their expenditure.

By vote you granted	.	.	.	\$ 3,100·00
Town's portion of State School Fund,	.	.	.	79·36
				<hr/>
				\$ 3,179·36



And we have expended, —

For instruction in High School, . . . . .	\$ 800·00
“ “ “ Harvard Grammar School, . . . . .	600·00
“ “ “ Second Grammar School, . . . . .	470·00
“ “ “ six District Schools, . . . . .	1,032·00
Fuel, as by bills approved, . . . . .	274·89

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\$ 3,176·89

Appropriation, . . . . . \$ 3,179·36

Expenditure, . . . . . 3,176·89

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Balance, . . . . . \$ 2·47

There remains on hand a larger amount of coal than usual, the value of which should be, properly, deducted from the sum expended for fuel the past year. It should, moreover, be considered that the Town Hall is warmed from the same furnace which warms the Harvard Grammar School; and that the evenings in which the Hall has been let, the past winter, have been numerous.

Your Committee have increased the salary paid to the teacher of the High School one hundred dollars, feeling that the variety of branches required to be taught in that School, and the faithful manner in which the teacher has long fulfilled his trust, as well as the average compensation rendered in schools of a similar rank about us, required the increase at their hands. The Committee of the previous year, not identical with the present Board, having fully considered the subject, were unanimous in their opinion that this salary should be increased; and in the sum named in the Report, which they had the honor to present to the citizens in March last, as the probably required appropriation for the year then ensuing, they had in view an increase of the same.

The salaries paid to the teachers of the Grammar Schools have been proportionally alike. An agreement was made with Mr. Ward, in March last, to teach the Second Grammar School, for one term of seventeen weeks, at ten dollars per week, with the understanding that if, at the close of that time, the Committee were satisfied to retain his services, his compensation would be increased. At the close of that first term, they renewed their engagement with Mr. Ward, as appears by the following entry in the School Records:—



“ In School Committee, July 27, 1849. An agreement was made with Mr. Pliny N. Ward, to teach the Second Grammar School, the two next terms, or from the 27th of August to the first Monday in March, at a compensation of three hundred dollars, the same being at the rate of six hundred dollars per year.”

And accordingly, as by Report of the Auditors, \$ 470 has been expended for that School.

The same method was pursued with the teacher of the Harvard Grammar School, who was first employed on trial in September, 1847, at a weekly compensation, and, after furnishing ample satisfaction to the Committee, was reëngaged, with increased pay, on an annual salary. And this practice, most reasonable in itself, as far as your Committee are informed, obtains generally.

### CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS.

The classification of our Schools, though not so minute as, doubtless, it will be made, with the future increase of the town, is yet, perhaps, as much so as is at present practicable. We have three grades, — the Primary, the Grammar, and a proper High School. Thus far, age alone has been the qualification for admission to both the former Schools, — attainment in learning, according to a fixed standard, the condition of admission to the latter. The neighbouring city of Cambridge, of which place our own town was, till 1807, a component part, has carried the system of division farther. Cambridge has the Alphabet, Primary, Middle, and Grammar Schools, and, lastly, the High School. The first embraces such children as are acquiring the first elements. The second is a grade not unlike our Primary Schools. The third is of an order of which we are feeling more and more the need, as for certain pupils but little advanced a grade preparatory to the Grammar, but the want of which can be supplied by employing assistants in the Grammar Schools.

The Massachusetts system of education has owed its eminent success and usefulness to nothing so much as to this very classification. The ancient plan, which brought together pupils of all ages and attainments under the same instructor, — from the child learning the multiplication table to the young man solving



the problems of Euclid, from the boy of six years of age to the young woman of twenty, who, perhaps, the season before had herself taught school, and come now as to a common receptacle of knowledge to reinforce her own stock, — was as discouraging and ill suited to the *less* advanced, as it was fatal to much progress in the *more*. We should hail with gladness, and seek to make more perfect still, the classification of schools. True, it may be attended with slight inconvenience. The parent, who does not enough consider its great advantages, is disposed to complain that his youngest child must go in one direction to the Alphabet or the Primary School, unattended by its older brother or sister, registered, perhaps, in the Grammar School, while still another son or daughter, who, by means of this very division, has been enabled to make greater progress, already adorns the higher walks of learning, pursued in yet a third School. But that same parent, when visiting some extensive manufactory, where the modern system of the division of labor has been fully introduced, will pass delighted and admiring from room to room, and acknowledge the excellence and wonderful results of the complicated plan, which brings out so beautifully and completely, part by part, each in its own way and time, its appointed work.

Something of the inconvenience here alluded to may have been experienced in reference to the Second Grammar School. The location of that School, on Harvard Street, is not, it is allowed, so convenient for the attendance of all its pupils as could be desired. But it will be remembered that, on the opening of the School, that building was already in possession of the town, and ready to be used. The site was not then first selected. Doubtless, with the increase of the town and enlargement of the School, a more spacious building, and in a more central location, will be furnished. In the mean while, better is it far to submit to such slight inconvenience as may be experienced, than to hazard at all the main system, which has been put in most successful operation among us, and the relinquishment of which, we believe, for a single year, would detract from the general prosperity of the Schools more than they have secured in ten years.

One word in this connection your Committee would add, in regard to admission to the High School. The terms for



admission to this School are detailed in a resolve, as entered on the records, passed in School Committee, Nov. 15, 1847. They would recommend that the standard of qualification for admission be gradually raised, by enlarging gradually the field of study in the Grammar Schools. They would never compel pupils to present themselves for examination to a High School, but would leave such promotion a matter of individual ambition. Accordingly, no rule has ever been established by the Board requiring pupils in the Grammar Schools to be examined for the High School. Notice is given to all of certain attainments, who wish to be candidates, to present themselves before the Committee, and be heard thereon. Such as do not wish to go up higher can have no laudable ambition infused by compulsion. They should accordingly remain ; the Committee of course reserving the right conferred on them by the statute of the Commonwealth, to regulate the studies which such pupils pursue while there, and not suffering the teacher to make exceptions in the regular studies of the school, in school hours, in favor of such.

Further, the law recognizes no age at which a pupil must either be promoted to a higher school, or must leave school altogether. An impression prevails, that, since hitherto all children between the ages of four and sixteen have been annually enrolled on the town school lists, all beyond sixteen were excluded from the schools. It is a wrong impression. Indeed, in the act in relation to this matter, enacted April 18, 1849, changing the specified ages of enrolment from four and sixteen to five and fifteen, the following section is introduced : — “ Nothing in this act contained shall be considered as prohibiting the attendance upon the schools of scholars under five, or over fifteen years of age.” The whole matter is left discretionary with the Committee. A statute of 1847 does authorize towns to support schools especially for the instruction of adults, if they see fit, and to raise taxes for this object, in the usual way ; but the law does not compel young men or women, even of twenty or twenty-five years of age, some of whom as old, we understand, are still in the country schools, to leave all public schools.

If, then, it should appear, either that any pupils who might reasonably have been expected to be promoted from one school to another have not been, or that any beyond the age of six-



teen, even, are retained in the schools, no law of the Commonwealth and no regulation of the School Committee have been thereby infringed.

### SCHOOL-HOUSES.

Your school buildings are in good condition, and but little has been expended on them the past year. What most we regret in them is the imperfect manner in which they are ventilated. With one or two exceptions, as in Primaries Nos. I. and VI., and in the Harvard Grammar School, more room is needed in all. This, we think, the friends of the pupils, who come in at their examinations, will willingly testify. We have made exceptions. We doubt if any school-room in the Commonwealth offers, to the same number of pupils, equal accommodation in respect to space and air, with that of the Harvard Grammar School. There may be larger school-rooms, but none, perhaps, so spacious as this, for seventy pupils, the number now belonging. The High School room is altogether too contracted for the number of advanced pupils who fill it. The building, occupied by the Second Grammar School on the upper floor, and by Primary No. I. on the lower, would be improved by erecting a staircase on the outside, to conduct the Grammar School scholars to their room, without passing through the narrow entry adjacent to the Primary. The two would thus be quite separate, and both, it is believed, be benefited. This alteration has been recently asked for by parents interested in those schools, and the Committee commend the subject to the consideration of their successors.

Primaries Nos. II. and III. remain as last reported. District No. IV. has never had a school-house in its own borders, and its children are dependent on their neighbours of No. V. for school quarters. They are all, literally sent away from home to school. They occupy the lower floor of the Academy, not in their District, and at an inconvenient distance from some portions of the same. As the whole of this building may be needed for the High School before long, the Committee cannot but wish that the town possessed some lot within No. IV., on which, when required, they could locate a school-house. When the district was first laid out, the town could procure no lot there at what it deemed a satisfactory price. Probably



the difficulty of procuring the same has grown no less, these four years since. Your Committee would be far from recommending, especially with past national experiences before their eyes, any belligerent measures for annexing new territory to the town's domain. But simply to hold up before all their good friends, land-owners in No. IV., the wholesome terrors of the law, as well as the sovereign power vested in the Board of Selectmen, they would cite a single section from the statute of 1848:—

“Whenever a suitable place shall have been designated by any town, or by any school district, for the erection of a school-house and necessary buildings, and the owner of the land so designated shall refuse to sell the same, or shall demand a price therefor, which, in the opinion of the Selectmen, is unreasonable, the said Selectmen, with the approbation of the town, may proceed to select, at their discretion, a school-house lot, and lay out the same, not exceeding in quantity forty square rods, and to appraise the damages to the owner of such land in the same way and manner as is provided for laying out town ways and appraising damages sustained thereby; and upon payment, or tender of payment, of the amount of such damages by the town or district designating such school-house lot, to the owner thereof, said land may be taken, held, and used for the purpose for which it was designated.”

The school-house of No. V. has been repaired in the interior, and that of No. VI. has, for the first time, in its new location on Allston Street, been inclosed with a substantial fence.

In addition to the remarks presented in former reports on the subject of school-houses, the Committee would recommend to the perusal of the citizens that most interesting work, by Henry Barnard, “School Architecture, or Contributions to the Improvement of School-Houses in the United States,” which is illustrated by beautiful plates and drawings, — and, by a resolve of the Massachusetts Legislature of 1849, is furnished to each town. A copy of the work is in the hands of your Town Clerk.

## COMMITTEE.

The Committee have endeavoured to keep themselves informed of the internal condition of the schools, as far as possible. One of the Board was prevented, by unavoidable absence from town, from being present at any of the summer



examinations, and, by illness, at the fall examinations, with one exception. Another of the Board, by necessary absence from town, was unable to be present at any of the fall examinations. Still the number of meetings of the Committee, as recorded, at nearly all of which all have been present, has been nine, — the number of examinations, twenty-six, — the number of visits to the schools, eighty-one. The aggregate number of individual attendances on these several occasions has been 152, — shared by your committee in proportion as the numbers 29, 39, 84. They are happy to state that, while ample room is yet open for improvement, at no former period in their experience have all the schools together appeared better.

### TEACHERS.

The schools have been under the charge of ten teachers ; a smaller number, because there have been fewer changes, than usual. In 1848–49, twelve teachers, and the year before, with one school less, eighteen teachers, were employed. Of the teachers of the past year, four were of our own town, and have been formerly pupils of your High School. Only in the second Grammar School, and in Primary School No. III., has there been any change of teachers since last year.

### EXAMINATIONS.

Examinations of the several schools have been held at such times as the law requires. The duty of the Committee on these occasions is prescribed in these words: — “ They are required to make a careful examination of the school, and to ascertain whether the scholars are supplied with books ; they must also inquire into the regulation and discipline of the school and the habits and proficiency of the scholars therein.”

The Committee have endeavoured to fulfil these requisitions, and present a brief summary of the condition of the schools, at the regular examinations in July, November, and February.

#### HIGH SCHOOL, ON ACADEMY HILL.

Teacher, Mr. John Ruggles, of Milton.

#### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	48
Boys, 21 ; Girls, 27.	



Belonging to the school, . . . . .	33
Boys, 16 ; Girls, 17.	
Present, . . . . .	31
Boys, 15 ; Girls, 16.	

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	54
Boys, 21 ; Girls, 33.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	48
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 30.	
Present, . . . . .	45
Boys, 15 ; Girls, 30.	

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	55
Boys, 23 ; Girls, 32.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	49
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 27.	
Present, . . . . .	48
Boys, 21 ; Girls, 27.	

At the first examination, classes in Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, and Surveying, were very correct. First class in History of the United States, one in Astronomy, one in Natural Philosophy, and one in Physiology, answered promptly. Exercises in Reading, and by the first class in Grammar, were marked superior. Two classes in Latin, one in Greek, and two in French, recited very well.

At the second examination, the first and second classes in Algebra, the second in Grammar, a class in Natural Philosophy, on matter and its properties, a class in Physiology, and one in Astronomy, were selected, and their exercises were generally correct. The first and third classes in French were very satisfactory. More time than usual at the public examinations of this school, was given to the pupils in Latin and Greek ; and they manifested a very good acquaintance with the grammatical construction of those languages, particularly with parsing and the scanning of Latin verse.

The school-room offering no accommodation for visitors, the closing examination was held again at the Harvard Grammar



School room, and through the day. The Committee were all present, and were highly gratified both with the general appearance of the school and with the particular progress which was manifested in certain studies. Classes were presented in Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry, in English Grammar, Geography, and History of the United States, in General History, Natural Philosophy, Physiology, and Astronomy, in French, Latin, and Greek, and with one or two exceptions were all examined. We think the exercises in the classical department have never been better, and were happy to find here two pupils, natives of the town, preparing for admission to college, the coming summer. The recitations in all the branches were highly creditable to the teacher and the pupils. The reading of select pieces by several of the girls was excellent; the general reading in the school, as usual, remarkably good. The declamation was likewise good; and was made more interesting by two extracts from Cicero's Orations, in the original, spoken with great accuracy, and with effect, by two of the more advanced pupils. Neat penmanship and exceedingly well-written English compositions have been presented to us at each examination. General and punctual attendance of the pupils belonging to the school at each examination, — at the last, one only absent. The order and deportment of the pupils have been highly commendable. And we take pleasure in presenting this school as of the highest value to the town in furnishing for all the young who are desirous, through the necessary preparation, of enjoying its advantages, the opportunity of acquiring a most excellent education, — as honorable alike to the teacher, who, with no assistant, has enabled his pupils to glean as closely as they have done from a field so wide, and to the pupils, whose progress we have traced through another year with increased satisfaction.

#### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Town Hall, on Washington Street.*

Teacher, Mr. Solomon A. Poore, of Dorchester.

#### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . 63  
Boys, 34 ; Girls, 29.



Belonging to the school, . . . . .	47
Boys, 21 ; Girls, 26.	
Present, . . . . .	42
Boys, 17 ; Girls, 25.	

*Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	58
Boys, 30 ; Girls, 28.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	54
Boys, 28 ; Girls, 26.	
Present, . . . . .	49
Boys, 25 ; Girls, 24.	

*Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	71
Boys, 44 ; Girls, 27.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	70
Boys, 42 ; Girls, 28.	
Present, . . . . .	58
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 25.	

The minutes of the first examination report, — Classes in Arithmetic, the second and third in Geography, with the maps, the first in History, and first in Grammar, ready and accurate for the most part in all questions proposed both by the Committee and the teacher. The reading was much commended. Order wholly unexceptionable. Writing-books well. Pleasant relations, apparently, between the pupils and teacher.

At the second examination, the same branches were presented, and in the judgment of the Committee making the examination, the proficiency of the pupils was quite equal to what could reasonably be expected, when the number of the pupils and the very limited advantages which some of them had enjoyed before entering the school, were considered.

At the last examination, held through the day, the classes in Arithmetic underwent quite a searching examination at the blackboard, as usual, and were found generally correct. The first and second classes in History, very creditable. The classes in Geography, examined in the afternoon, were not favorably reported. The reading was hardly equal to that of



the last examination ; but in defining words, the pupils manifested remarkable accuracy. Some instances of marked improvement in penmanship. Some attention has been given through the year to the writing of compositions.

Many friends of the pupils were present at the closing examination ; and each term they have manifested a laudable interest in the school by their attendance. The personal appearance and deportment of the pupils through the day were very gratifying to us all ; most creditable, both to the teacher and the pupils. The school, in this respect, we believe, would not compare unfavorably with any Grammar School of the same size in the vicinity of a great city. No case of truancy had been known, or suspected, though the Committee, acting with the teachers, have made this a matter of special heed in both the Grammar Schools.

The average attendance in this school has considerably exceeded the limit at which, by the law of the Commonwealth, an assistant shall be employed. The statute of 1839 is to this effect : —

“ In every School in the Commonwealth, containing fifty or more scholars, as the average number, the school district, or town, to which such school belongs, must employ a female assistant or assistants, unless such school district or town shall, at a meeting regularly called for the purpose, vote to dispense with the same.”

The number of pupils now belonging to this school is seventy. At a casual visit of one of the Committee, January 30, he found sixty in attendance. It is impossible with such numbers, and with attainments so various, for a single teacher to devote that time to each which each requires. Your Committee will recommend a small increase of the appropriation for the coming year, that an assistant may be here employed.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*On Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Mr. Pliny N. Ward, of Phillipston.

### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	58
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 25.	



Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	36
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 18.	
Present, . . . . .	35
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 17.	

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	54
Boys, 34 ; Girls, 20.	
Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	46
Boys, 29 ; Girls, 17.	
Present, . . . . .	43

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	63
Boys, 39 ; Girls, 24.	
Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	53
Boys, 35 ; Girls, 18.	
Present, . . . . .	49
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 16.	

As was stated above, Mr. Ward was engaged on the 26th of March last, the Committee having been unable to make choice earlier of a successor to Mr. Dunklee, whose term closed on the 10th.

At the first examination, classes were presented in Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, Reading, and Spelling, and in the judgment of the Committee, two of the Board present, manifested a very marked improvement. Greater improvement had not often been noticed in a single term. Some cases of truancy were reported to the Committee, at this visitation, and were duly censured.

At the second examination, minutes report :—Third class in Geography very accurate. Reading too rapid. History correct. Second class in Arithmetic very well ; third and fourth classes well. Class of boys in Grammar, parsing deficient ; class of girls in same, well. First in Geography very well. Penmanship improving. Some cases of misdemeanour had been reported to the Committee, and were commented on at the close of the exercises.

At the last examination, all of the Committee present, all things were reported more favorable. The general order and



appearance of the scholars have never before been so good. Two boys and two girls only were absent. Classes were examined in all the usual branches, — and were generally more accurate than in November. The weekly reports which had been furnished your Committee, from this school, the last term, had been growing better. We believe the teacher to have devoted himself to the advancement of the pupils in their studies, and to their improvement in general deportment, — and with increasing success. And we are happy to present on their part an apparently increasing interest in their studies, and desire to promote the welfare and good name of the school.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### DISTRICT No. I.

*On Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Susanna M. Duncklee, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Emery Willard.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	44
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	37
“ present,	. . . . .	35

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	40
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	39
“ present,	. . . . .	37

#### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	38
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	36
“ present,	. . . . .	34

At each examination two pupils only absent, and satisfactory reason given on each occasion. At the first, classes in Arithmetic and Philosophy were best. First in Arithmetic superior. Reading and Geography well. At second, improvement in Geography, but not equal to the proficiency in Arithmetic. First class in Reading superior, — second class very correct in Spelling. At third examination, first class in Geography well, — second more ready, — third and fourth not accurate. The



youngest classes in Reading very well, and first and second superior. Spelling good. Classes in Oral Arithmetic and in Written Arithmetic at the blackboard very satisfactory. A class in Philosophy and one in Grammar omitted for want of time. The appearance of the room and of the school register, and of the writing-books, well reported at each examination. Writing-books less marred with blots than we often see in the schools. Maps in successful use. Order superior. General appearance and deportment of the pupils highly commendable. A very large attendance of their friends at each examination, — and the good effect of their interest is plainly manifested in the school. The teacher is entering on her fourth year of service. A very happy school.

### DISTRICT No. II.

*Near corner of Market and River Streets.*

Teacher, Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. F. Taylor.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	68
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	54
“ present,	. . . . .	51

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	54
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	41
“ present,	. . . . .	39

#### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	47
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	45
“ present,	. . . . .	41

At the first examination, four classes in Geography were all remarkably correct. First class in Arithmetic much advanced. Reading of select pieces by some of the girls very good. Class in Philosophy accurate. At the second, reading in concert, by the second class, was particularly good. Exercises on the Maps and in Arithmetic were commended. At the third, the first class in Reading was marked superior, the



second very well, the first and second in Geography and three in Arithmetic very correct. Fourth in Geography well. Class in Philosophy quite ready in their replies. Dialogues spoken with good effect. We have found things in good order here at each visitation. A few pupils more advanced in their studies than usual in the Primary Schools. The exercises agreeably varied with pleasant singing. The friends of the school have come in good numbers to meet with us, and so to confirm or disavow the judgment we herewith send abroad. The teacher has been successfully employed here nearly three years. We think if the children do not make progress it will be their own fault.

### DISTRICT No. III.

*Corner of Washington and Faneuil Streets.*

Teachers, Miss Mary Anne C. Townsend, of Lancaster, and  
Miss Frances S. Kingsley, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. John Duncklee.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	75
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	56
“ present,	. . . . .	40

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	71
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	59
“ present,	. . . . .	49

#### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	59
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	58
“ present,	. . . . .	51

This school was under the charge of Miss Mary Anne C. Townsend, from the opening of the first term till the 4th of May, — when, on account of ill health, the teacher resigned her place, just as she had acquired that knowledge of the school which seemed to promise success. Miss Frances S. Kingsley, of this town, was appointed on the 7th of May. She has also been interrupted by sickness, and her place was supplied for a few weeks of the last term by her sister, a pupil



from the High School. At the three examinations, the proficiency of the scholars was fully equal to what could reasonably be expected under these several changes. At the first, the order of the school was marked superior. First class in reading superior, and the classes generally, with the exception of the fourth in Geography, were correct. Good specimens of drawing were shown. At the second examination ten pupils were absent on account of sickness and the unpleasant weather. At this and at the third examination order was again remarkably good. Reading was highly commended. Classes in Geography and in Arithmetic, oral and written, recited very well. The fourth in Geography had improved. Classes in Philosophy were quite accurate. Dialogues were pleasantly spoken; and the Singing was generally joined in by the pupils. The school-room was in good order, and the writing-books, generally, neat. Some cases of marked improvement in scholarship and deportment were noticed, speaking well both for pupils and teacher.

#### DISTRICT No. IV.

##### *On Academy Hill.*

Teacher, Miss Catharine Stearns, of Lancaster.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Charles Spring.

##### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	65
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	58
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	52

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	64
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	60
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	57

##### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	68
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	54
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	47

At the first examination we were much gratified with the exercises in Geography, a set of the Outline Maps having been



procured during the term previous. Several pupils well advanced, and to be sent up to the Grammar School, made this school appear to better advantage at this time, perhaps, than any of the Primaries. At the second examination, in a rain-storm of unusual severity, three pupils only were absent, and the exercises were very satisfactory. At the third, though the attendance of the pupils in the term had been more irregular than usual on account of sickness, we found them fully up to the average attainment in the several branches of study. In Arithmetic, oral and written, in Philosophy, in Reading and Spelling, and especially in Geography, the recitations gave evidence of united interest on the part of teacher and pupils. Absences at each examination satisfactorily excused. Some specimens of drawing creditable to their young authors were exhibited. Very interesting Singing; and Dialogues spoken, of advantage, we think, to the minds and hearts and manners of the children, afforded an agreeable variety in the examination exercises. The writing-books are very carefully kept. The teacher has had charge of the school two years and one term. The general appearance of the room and of the pupils, and the interest of the parents and friends in their children and teacher, manifested by a very general attendance on the examinations, bespeak a pleasant and improving school.

#### DISTRICT No. V.

##### *On Shepherd Street.*

Teacher, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. B. F. Pierce.

##### *First Examination..*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	52
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	48
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	37

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	48
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	45
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	39



*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	43
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	43
“ present, . . . . .	34

A Globe and the Outline Maps had been furnished during the previous term, and the pupils' improvement of them was manifested to us at the first examination. Classes in Arithmetic, first class in Reading and in Grammar, were very correct. Class in Philosophy well. Truancy was reported to the Committee, and censured, at this examination. At the second examination, classes in Arithmetic were again well reported. First and third in Geography, Reading by the first class, and Spelling by the second, much commended. At the last examination, some of the most advanced pupils were detained by sickness, but the exercises generally were very good. First class in Reading, third in Geography, first in Arithmetic and in Philosophy, superior. While the school register is kept with great neatness, the writing-books have not appeared as well as we could wish. At the last examination, the girls' books showed more improvement than the boys'. Absences at the examinations more than usual, but good reason was given. At the last, nine pupils absent from sickness. We have marked with much pleasure one boy who has not once been absent, forenoon or afternoon, for one year and two terms. Several others have been very punctual. Such cases deserve commendation. At the first examination, one pupil, still quite young, was found so advanced in her studies as to be at once presented for examination to the High School, and was received, with older pupils from the Grammar Schools. The room has been painted and papered the past summer, and is in fine order. The attendance of the friends of the school at the examinations has not been as large as we could wish, for the encouragement of the pupils and of the teacher, who has been faithfully engaged here almost two years.

DISTRICT No. VI.

*On Allston Street.*

Teacher, Miss Hannah A. Hoyt, of Waltham.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Abel Merriam.



*First Examination.*

Number through the term,	46
“ belonging to the school,	39
“ present,	38

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	37
“ belonging to the school,	31
“ present,	31

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	31
“ belonging to the school,	29
“ present,	29

Miss Hoyt, a former well-known teacher among us, took charge of this School in March last. Minutes of the first examination report : — First class in Arithmetic and first in Reading very good. Second and third deficient in Spelling. Philosophy, Grammar, and History very well. The pupils deficient in general order and stillness. Largest attendance of the friends ever seen in this school. At the second examination as marked improvement as we have ever witnessed in a single term. No pupil absent. Every recitation was satisfactory, — a few only being conducted by the teacher. Exercises in Geography with the maps were very interesting ; and in Arithmetic and Philosophy the pupils were prompt and accurate. The room is kept with great neatness, ornamented with well-chosen mottoes, teaching silently. Pleasant singing. Affectionate relations between the teacher and her pupils. The room was crowded with the friends of the school ; and at the close of the exercises, a book was presented to each pupil, a gift from Mr. David Hart, of the district, as a friendly expression of his interest in the school, and for the readiness of the pupils in committing to memory, at his request, and repeating together, the fifteenth Psalm.

The last examination was deferred, on account of the illness of the teacher. The numbers given above were taken at a visit of one of the Committee to the school a few days before that assigned for the examination, and would, doubtless, have been the same on that day. The Committee cannot but express



their sympathy with the teacher, who has before been obliged to renounce her favorite work from illness, and the hope that she may again be permitted to resume the charge for which, through several years of service, she has shown herself so happily adapted.

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

The Committee cannot forbear a word of entreaty on the subject of attendance on the schools. It is obvious that the best-arranged schools must fail in a great measure of the good they should accomplish, unless the pupils attend regularly and punctually. Parents are yet too heedless of the importance of such regularity in their children. They suffer them to be absent from school, we fear, quite often, unnecessarily. By all such unnecessary absence, a great evil is caused to the pupil. A wrong, moreover, is done to the teacher, who must needs bear part of the reproach of the pupils' backwardness, or waywardness, both which unfortunate conditions, the former a mental, the latter a moral disease, are sure to be cherished by such habits. The whole character of the school, in short, is affected. For the well-regulated school is essentially one body, wherein if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. This matter of attendance is becoming one of the chief topics of consideration in the public school system. The watchful friends of education urge that, in our cities and populous towns especially, where a large class of vagrant children are found, either with no natural guardians, or with such as exert no control over them, the strong arm of the civil law should compel their regular attendance at school. For, it is argued, and with great reason, certainly, that if the State is to be burdened with the support of these children thus growing up in ignorance, or worse, is to become victim to their vices and crimes, then the State should look into the matter early; and by these precautionary regulations, — as rightful, surely, as sanitary laws when some plague is threatening, — stay the certain ravages which ignorance and vice entail on the community.

Our own town stands very well among the towns of the Commonwealth, in regard to the average attendance of her children. So important is the subject regarded by the Massachusetts Board of Education, that the Secretary has,



for three years, particularly investigated it, and classed the towns in a table.

As we have before explained, he takes the number of school-children, of certain specified ages, in each town, and the sum denoting their average attendance on the town schools, which data are annually returned to him by the School Committee. He expresses in decimals the ratio of one of these numbers to the other, and classes the town accordingly. By his last Report, we find that Brighton stands twenty-sixth among the 314 towns of the Commonwealth, in regard to attendance, having returned 496 children, and an average attendance on all the schools of 390. To find the town's place we change  $\frac{390}{496}$  to a decimal, which gives .78 ; and only twenty-five towns give a larger expression, thus making us twenty-sixth. No town nearer to us than Concord stands so high, and that is eighteenth. All places in our immediate vicinity are far below, — as Boston 139 ; Roxbury 201 ; Brookline 291 ; Cambridge 237 ; Wattertown 169 ; Newton 246.

Last year we reported that, for the year then previous, the town stood sixty-fifth in the scale of average attendance, — now twenty-sixth. We have gained somewhat. It will be seen, moreover, by examining the tables appended, that a larger proportion of the children belonging to our public schools were present at the recent closing examinations than for four years past, during which these tables have been kept. They give the number of pupils entered during the last term, the number belonging at the close of that term, and the number present at the closing examination, for each school in town.

1846-47.				1847-48.			
421 legal school-children.*				447 legal school-children.			
No. in Term. Belonging. Present.				No. in Term. Belonging. Present.			
H. S.	120	103	89	H. S.	54	48	44
H. G. S. not instituted.				H. G. S.	109	94	70
No. I.	53	46	35	No. I.	53	43	39
" II.	38	35	28	" II.	50	49	45
" III.	59	45	39	" III.	62	43	35
" IV.	57	48	35	" IV.	44	42	34
" V.	54	49	36	" V.	48	34	24
" VI.	56	47	39	" VI.	44	42	37
	<u>437</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>301</u>		<u>464</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>328</u>

\* All in town between the ages of four and sixteen.



1848-49.				1849-50.			
496 legal school-children.				452 legal school-children.*			
No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.		No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.	
H. S.	52	50	47	H. S.	55	49	48
H. G. S.	69	63	51	H. G. S.	71	70	58
2d G. S.	60	54	45	2d G. S.	63	53	49
No. I.	33	31	26	No. I.	38	36	34
" II.	56	51	45	" II.	47	45	41
" III.	55	51	47	" III.	59	58	51
" IV.	61	55	49	" IV.	68	54	47
" V.	44	39	29	" V.	43	43	34
" VI.	28	25	24	" VI.	31	29	29
	<u>458</u>	<u>419</u>	<u>363</u>		<u>475</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>391</u>

We here perceive that, while 437 children belonged to the several schools at the period of the closing examinations, 391 were present. Forty-six only were absent. But last year, it will be seen, 56 were absent; and the year previous, 67; and the year previous to that, 72.

Thus, by the report of figures, which tell no lies, we are gaining in average attendance. If the School Committee will keep these tables from year to year, they may form valuable data for future conclusions. Let us hope, that, by the united endeavours of parents and pupils, of teachers and Committees, the attendance may be made yet more constant and punctual.

### LYCEUM.

This popular method of bringing the young and the old, parents and children, together into one school, and blending entertainment with instruction, has been pursued through the past winter. A course of Lectures was begun Tuesday Evening, December 4, at the Town-Hall, by Wendell Phillips, of Boston, on "The Lost Arts,"—and was continued weekly, as follows:—By Rev. Barnas Sears, D. D., of Newton, on "Luther's Connection with the Cause of Education in his own Day"; by Rev. Edward B. Hall, D. D., of Providence, on "Popular Delusions"; by Rev. J. P. Lesley, of Milton, on "Alpine Scenery"; by Rev. George Putnam, D. D., of Roxbury, on "Reading"; by Edwin P. Whipple, of Boston, on "Character"; by Rev. George E. Ellis, of Charlestown, on "The Known and the Unknown, or the Limitations of Human Science"; by Rev. Samuel Worcester, D. D., of Salem,

\* All in town between the ages of five and fifteen.



on "Indian Orators and Eloquence"; by George S. Boutwell, of Groton, on "Ireland, her Natural Advantages, and her Condition"; by John C. Park, of Boston, on "Property"; by Benjamin H. Fernald, of Brighton, a Poem on "Ambition," and by Nathaniel P. Banks, of Waltham, a lecture on "The Slavonic People"; by Rev. F. D. Huntington, of Boston, on "Enterprise"; and the last of the course was on Friday evening, March 8, by Myron Lawrence, of Belcher-town, on "The Duties and Responsibilities of Young Men."

### TOWN'S RANK AS TO ITS APPROPRIATION.

The several towns in the Commonwealth are classed in a table arranged, each year, by the Secretary of the Board of Education, according to the amount which the sum appropriated for teachers' wages and fuel, divided by the number of children between the ages of five and fifteen, will give. Formerly the ages of enrolment were four and sixteen. But last May, for the first time since the alteration of the statute, the numbers between five and fifteen were ascertained by the assessors. We report the whole number of such in town, on the first of May, 1849, as 452, — males, 230; females, 222. The number, of course, is smaller than it would have been had the law been unaltered, and the list still based on the old enrolment of all between four and sixteen. The table of the Secretary, accompanying his last Report, places Brighton, where she stood the year previous, eleventh on the list of 314 towns, in the amount which her school appropriation would allow for each child between the specified ages. Thus he took the appropriation of 1848-49, \$2,700, and divided it by the number of children then returned, 496, — obtaining, for each pupil, \$5.44. Roxbury stands next to us, twelfth on the list, her appropriation of about \$20,000 giving to each pupil \$5.43. Dorchester stands thirteenth, for each pupil, \$5.42; Concord fourteenth, \$5.37; Watertown eighteenth, \$4.96; Newton fifty-third, \$3.49, having increased her appropriation, in one year, almost \$1,000, and gone up from 149, where she stood the year previous, to 53. Next above us on the list stands Cambridge, tenth, her appropriation of \$18,000 giving for each \$5.49; Charlestown stands third, her appropriation of \$25,000 giving for each \$6.79; Brookline is second on the list, her ap-



propriation of \$ 3,200 giving each \$ 7.39 ; and first on the list is Boston, her appropriation of nearly \$ 233,000 giving each pupil \$ 10.65. It should be borne in mind, that most of the towns above mentioned withdraw large numbers of their children from the public to private schools, which you do not. The lowest town on the list is Savoy, among the mountains of Berkshire, raising between \$ 300 and \$ 400 dollars for 279 children, — portion for each \$ 1.25.

Boston for the first time stands at the head of the list. Brookline, which, in former days, was part of the metropolis, has changed places with her mother, and stands now second, having last year stood first, and Boston second. In 1841-42, and 1842-43, you stood first on the list, two years successively, by advancing your appropriation \$ 1,000 in one year. We add the new items to the table, which was begun in 1848, and insert it here, as convenient for reference and comparison : —

Year.	Population.	No. of P. Schools.	School-children.	Appropriation.	Rank.
1837.	1,337	4	337	\$ 1,000	—
1838-39.	"	4	338	1,200	—
1839-40.	"	4	323	1,200	—
1840-41.	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841-42.	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842-43.	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843-44.	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844-45.	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845-46.	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846-47.	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847-48.	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848-49.	"	9	496	2,700	11
1849-50.	"	9	452	3,100	—
1850-51.	2,200 (probably)	9	— *	3,500	—

It will be seen that there has been a regular increase of school-children in town for several years, last year forty-nine more being reported to you than the year previous. We have no means of ascertaining what the increase was in May last, over the numbers obtained in May, 1848, — since in May last the new basis of enrolment was taken, counting the children between five and fifteen, and no longer between four and sixteen. But we have no reason to doubt that the increase has been at least equal to the average increase of the last few years.

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\* To be ascertained in May.



## APPROPRIATION FOR THE COMING YEAR.

The Committee recommend that the sum of \$ 3,500 be raised and appropriated for the pay of teachers' wages, and for fuel, the ensuing year. And, with these statements and recommendations they return into your hands the trust confided to them, — earnestly desiring the continued prosperity and usefulness of the schools, and the Divine blessing on the united labors of all engaged.

In behalf of the Committee,

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	} <i>Superintending School Committee.</i>
ARTHUR SWAZEY,	
JOHN S. KELLY,	

*Brighton, March 11, 1850.*

The Report was submitted at the annual town-meeting of the above date, but the reading of it was unavoidably postponed till the adjournment of the meeting on the 13th instant.

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At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Brighton, held March 13, 1850, by adjournment from the 11th, the foregoing Report having been read, it was voted that it be accepted and printed, as usual, for distribution among the families of the town.

Attest,

WILLIAM WARREN,  
*Town Clerk.*

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The town voted the appropriation recommended above, and made choice of Messrs. Joseph Breck, Reuben Hunting, and William D. Wiswall, as Committee for the ensuing year, — the Committee of the past year having severally declined accepting the office to which they were reëlected.

At an adjourned meeting, April 1st, George Nichols was chosen as one of the Board, in place of Wm. D. Wiswall, resigned.



THIRTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

*\*4358.5*

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1850 - 51.

CAMBRIDGE:  
METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1851.







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7375  
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# R E P O R T .

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TO THE CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON : —

THE School Committee of Brighton respectfully submit to the citizens their Thirteenth Annual Report.

An enlightened system of education is truly said, by an intelligent writer, to be one of the “three great vital centres of the social system.” *The Religion of the Bible, Education, and Freedom* are these three great centres, which, when united, form “a threefold cord” of imperishable strength, sufficient to bind together *any* community in a body politic that cannot be rent asunder by any external earthly power.

Viewed in this light, our system of free schools may be considered as one of the foundation-stones on which may securely rest the mighty fabric of our free government. As such, it should ever be guarded with watchful care by parents, teachers, and committees, and constitutes a subject of deep interest to the patriot and the Christian, and to every well-wisher to the happiness and prosperity of our wide-spread country.

Entertaining these sentiments, your Committee entered upon the discharge of their arduous duties with deep feelings of the responsibility of their work, but with a determination to do the utmost in their power to sustain and uphold the high character of the schools committed to their care, which, under the supervision of the able Committees of past years, have been raised to an elevated and enviable position among the schools of the Commonwealth.

Wholly inexperienced in the practical duties of their office, and succeeding gentlemen of much experience, ability, and learning, the position of your Committee at the commence-



ment of their labors was one of great embarrassment and perplexity ; particularly as the whole responsibility, in consequence of a vacancy in the Board, rested upon two individuals, whose sole opportunities for education had been those enjoyed previously to the age of fourteen, and only such as our common public schools furnished, for a few months in the year, forty years ago, and who had hardly seen a school in operation since. The vacancy in the Committee was filled at the April town-meeting. From that time they have harmoniously devoted themselves to their work.

### FINANCIAL CONCERNS.

The Committee make the following statement as to their use of the means furnished them for sustaining the schools, on your appropriation : —

By vote granted,	. . . . .	\$ 3,500.00
Town's portion of the State Fund,	. . . . .	92.81
		<hr/>
		\$ 3,592.81

For Instruction in the High School,	. \$ 800.00
“ “ “ Harv. Gram. do.,	600.00
“ “ “ 2d Grammar do.,	600.00
“ “ “ Six District do.,	1,040.00
	<hr/>

Total for Instruction, . . . . \$ 3,040.00

E. Willard's coal-bill,	. . . . .	\$ 54.00
J. Hanley's bill for charcoal, High School,		5.00
Cogswell's bill for charcoal for do.,		2.64
C. H. & A. Brackett's bill for coal,		78.26
“ “ “ wood,		2.50
Cogswell's bill for charcoal for Harvard		
Grammar School,	. . . . .	15.33
H. Barker's bill for charcoal,	. . . . .	1.50
A. Everett's “ “	. . . . .	2.67
“ “ “	. . . . .	2.00
S. Wethern, wood and coal,	. . . . .	7.60
C. H. & A. Brackett's bill for coal, &c.,		32.64
		<hr/>

Total for fuel, . . . . . \$ 204.14

Total expenditure, . . . . \$ 3,244.14



Appropriation,	.	.	.	\$ 3,592.81
Expenditure,	.	.	.	3,244.14
				<hr/>
Balance unexpended,	.	.	.	\$ 348.67

## SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The Committee report the school-houses to be in good order. They would, however, call the attention of the town to the condition of the road on the summit of Academy Hill. From its steepness, it is exceedingly difficult of ascent and descent ; and in winter, when covered with ice, even dangerous. In consequence of this, many parents are at this season deterred from sending their children to the Primary School kept there, — the number of pupils being much smaller during the winter term than at any other, owing, according to the testimony of the teacher, mainly to this cause. Perhaps this difficulty may be obviated in a degree, by taking off the summit and by a little grading ; or a substantial balustrade may be erected for support and protection, in ascending or descending, when the road is slippery. Aside from this objection, the location is a most desirable one, on account of its retired position, beautiful shade, and extensive grounds for exercise.

The interior of the High School, and that of the Primary School under it, have been painted, papered, and otherwise repaired, and now present a neat and comfortable appearance. It was found necessary to procure a new furnace to heat these two rooms, which was purchased and set at an expense of \$ 84.87.

The interior of School-House No. VI., as also that of No. III., has been painted and repaired during the past summer, and a timepiece placed in No. II.

The attention of the Committee was early called to the condition of the school-house on Harvard Street, in District No. I. It was represented to them, that in rainy weather, particularly in the winter, the cellar was sometimes filled with water to the depth of two feet, rendering it impossible to maintain the fires in the furnace, and jeoparding the health of the teachers and scholars. As there was no way by which the cellar could be drained, it was found necessary to raise the building two feet, and to fill up the cellar to the depth of two feet and a half.



The cellar originally extended only under a part of the building. The ground covered by the remaining portion was now excavated, and the gravel used for filling up the old cellar to the required depth, and for raising the ground in front of the building. The whole cellar was stoned, and the wall surmounted with a substantial hard brick underpinning. This work, with some repairs, involved an expense of about one hundred and fifty dollars. The old furnace was found to be worthless, and it became necessary to purchase a new one, which, with the setting, cost \$81.50. The area in front of this school-house is always in a bad condition in rainy weather and in the spring of the year, and greatly needs to be put in passable order.

The location of Primary School-House No. V. is retired from the public highway, with ample room for exercise. The ground is ornamented with a number of young, handsome shade-trees, of vigorous growth. The Committee were pleased to notice some beds of flowers that had been objects of much care with some of the children, who had apparently regarded each other's rights, and cultivated their different allotments in a most harmonious spirit. On the day of the last examination, the Committee found it very difficult to get to the school-house from the main road, on account of the very bad walking. There should be a good sidewalk constructed of stones and gravel. The soil which might be taken off would nearly pay the expense.

It is to be regretted that any of the school-houses should be so situated as not to afford sufficient room for exercise without occupying the public road, or their grounds so contracted as not to admit of the planting of shade-trees for the comfort of the children.

## STATE SCHOOL FUND.

The amount received this year from the State Fund is \$92.81. According to an act passed at the last session of the Legislature, school committees are "hereafter to be required to state the sum or sums of money received from the School Fund by their several towns and cities respectively; and also to specify the purposes to which such sums may have been appropriated." Thus far, the money received from the State has been used for common school purposes. The Com-



mittee would suggest, that it be hereafter appropriated, under the direction of the School Committee and the Teacher of the High School, for the purchase of books of reference for the use of that school, and such apparatus as may be deemed necessary for the more perfect instruction of the pupils.

## BOOKS.

Agreeably to a resolve of the last Legislature, the Committee have obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Education Worcester's Octavo Dictionary, for the use of the High School and the two Grammar Schools. It was left optional with school committees to take either "Noah Webster's Unabridged Quarto Dictionary, or Joseph E. Worcester's Octavo." The Committee chose the latter, on the ground of its corresponding in orthography with the text-books in general use in our schools, — Webster's often differing from them in this particular.

No change has been made in school-books by the Committee during the year past, except that Green's Grammar has been recommended in place of Smith's, where new classes were to be formed, and has been introduced into the High School, the Harvard Grammar School, and some of the Primary Schools.

## TEACHERS.

The schools have been under the charge of ten teachers during the year. The changes that have been made are in the Harvard Grammar School, and Primaries No. III. and No. VI. Mr. Alvan Roundy, of Unity, N. H., was engaged to take charge of the Harvard Grammar School at the commencement of the year, on a salary of six hundred dollars per annum. Miss Mary Jane Fletcher, of Brighton, was appointed teacher of Primary School No. VI., at the opening of the spring term. Miss Frances A. Kingsley resigned her charge as teacher of Primary School No. III. on the 6th of September, and Miss Catherine Dana was appointed in her place, September 9th. The teachers in all the schools have proved themselves competent and efficient; their labors have been highly satisfactory to the Committee.

Agreeably to the following act, passed at the last session of



the Legislature, teachers must hereafter be qualified to give instruction in the elementary principles of Physiology and Hygiene :—

“ *An Act requiring Physiology and Hygiene to be taught in the Public Schools.*

“ Section 1. Physiology and Hygiene shall hereafter be taught in all the public schools of the Commonwealth, in all cases in which the school committee shall deem it expedient.

“ Section 2. All school teachers shall hereafter be examined in their knowledge of the elementary principles of Physiology and Hygiene, and their ability to give instruction in the same.

“ Section 4. This act shall take effect on and after the first day of October, 1851.”

### THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee have endeavored to keep themselves informed of the internal condition of the schools, and have therefore, collectively and individually, made numerous visits, independent of the stated examinations. They have also had occasion for numerous meetings for consultation and business.

The number of regular examinations has been twenty-seven ; the number of informal visits to the schools, eighty-five. The aggregate attendance of the several members of the Committee on these occasions has been equivalent to 146 individual visits.

### EXAMINATIONS.

The Committee have endeavored to fulfil the requisitions of the law in relation to the examination of the schools, and present a brief summary of their condition in July, November, and February.

#### HIGH SCHOOL, ON ACADEMY HILL.

Teacher, Mr. John Ruggles, of Milton.

#### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . 53  
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 31.



Belonging to the school, . . . . .	32
Boys, 15 ; Girls, 17.	
Present, . . . . .	30
Boys, 14 ; Girls, 16.	

*Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	48
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 30.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	44
Boys, 17 ; Girls, 27.	
Present, . . . . .	42
Boys, 16 ; Girls, 26.	

*Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	44
Boys, 23 ; Girls, 21.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	41
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 19.	
Present, . . . . .	41
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 19.	

At the first examination, classes in Grammar, generally very well ; three classes in Latin, one in Greek, and three in French, very well ; classes in General History and Algebra, well ; class in Natural Philosophy, very well. Compositions, very neat, many of them well written ; Reading, girls generally excellent, boys not so well. Order, some whispering.

At the second examination, first class in French (Fontaine), very well ; third class in French (Télémaque), well ; first class in Latin (Virgil), very well ; second class in Latin (Cæsar), pretty well ; lesson in Greek, pretty well ; classes in Geometry and Philosophy, excellent ; first and second classes in Grammar, very well ; class in Physiology, perfect. Compositions generally written very neatly, and, so far as the Committee had time to read them, satisfactory. Order, good.

The third examination was held at the Harvard Grammar School-room, through the day. The Committee were happy to find every pupil present. The classes in Geometry, Algebra, and Arithmetic were put to a severe test by problems selected by the Committee, which were worked out either upon the blackboard or the slate in a most satisfactory manner,



the results being brought out correctly, with only one slight error in a single instance in all the classes. The classes in Latin, Greek, and French gave satisfactory evidence of their proficiency. Classes were presented in Physiology, Natural Philosophy, and General History ; all the questions answered promptly. Classes in Grammar appeared very well. Neat Penmanship, and exceedingly well-written Compositions, were presented. Excellent Compositions were read in a very satisfactory manner by two young ladies, the authors. The Reading by the whole school was excellent ; select pieces were read by a number of young ladies, with very great credit to themselves. Declamation by a number of the boys, highly satisfactory. A large number of visitors present.

The High School has, during the past year, sent out for the first time candidates for admission to college, one to Yale, and one to Harvard, who entered, as is understood, with distinguished success. The young gentleman who entered Harvard College was one out of a very few, and *that* in a large class, who passed examination with entire acceptance. The one who entered Yale College passed examination in the same unexceptionable manner. This speaks well for the fidelity and competency of the teacher, and is a fact which should commend the school to the high consideration of the town. The school has uniformly appeared well in all departments, on every visitation of the Committee. The pupils seemed to be animated by a strong interest in their studies, and an earnest ambition to second the efforts of their teacher for their improvement. Its condition is, altogether, in the highest degree satisfactory.

#### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Town Hall, on Washington Street.*

Teacher, Mr. Alvan Roundy, of Unity, N. H.

#### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	61
Boys, 35 ; Girls, 26.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	32
Boys, 15 ; Girls, 17.	
Present, . . . . .	22
Boys, 5 ; Girls, 17.	



*Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	41
Boys, 19 ; Girls, 22.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	40
Boys, 19 ; Girls, 21.	
Present, . . . . .	37
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 19.	

*Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	57
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 24.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	55
Boys, 31 ; Girls, 24.	
Present, . . . . .	52
Boys, 30 ; Girls, 22.	

At the first examination, first and second classes in Arithmetic, mostly very well ; first class in Geography, very well ; second class in Geography, well ; first class in Grammar, pretty well ; second class in Grammar, generally very well ; first class in Reading, imperfect ; second class in Reading, generally very well ; third class in Reading, very poorly ; first class in Spelling, pretty well. Order, not perfect, but much improved from what it was at the last monthly visitation.

At the second examination, the first class in Arithmetic, very well indeed ; second class, middling well ; third class, mostly very well ; classes in Grammar, very well ; first class in Reading, well ; second class in Reading, deficient as to punctuation ; third class in Reading, poorly ; classes in Geography, very well ; classes in Spelling, middling well. Order, excellent.

At the third examination, the Reading by the first and second classes, for the most part indifferently well, but somewhat improved from the last examination ; third class, poorly. A large class in Grammar, which had commenced Green's Grammar at the opening of the winter term, appeared very well. The classes in Arithmetic generally performed their sums on the blackboard correctly. Classes in Geography, pretty well. Writing, with some exceptions, not so good as could be wished. Order, unexceptionable. The average attendance



through the winter was a fraction over fifty per day. More than one fourth of the pupils present were new scholars, who had not generally been favored with the advantages enjoyed by our children in the Primary Schools, and would hardly rank with those in the third classes of these schools. The large proportion of such pupils would naturally detract from the good appearance of a school on examination day.

Upon the whole, considering the peculiar situation in which this school was found by the Committee at the commencement of the spring term, it has made better progress than at one time was anticipated. Although it is not altogether what the Committee could wish, one thing is certain; it has been brought from a state of great insubordination into a condition which will compare favorably with that of the most orderly and well-disciplined schools in town.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*On Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Mr. Pliny N. Ward, of Phillipston.

### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	66
Boys, 36 ; Girls, 30.	
Number belonging to the school, . . . .	25
Boys, 16 ; Girls, 9.	
Present, . . . . .	23
Boys, 15 ; Girls, 8.	

### *Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	53
Boys, 34 ; Girls, 19.	
Number belonging to the school, . . . .	45
Boys, 29 ; Girls, 16.	
Present, . . . . .	42
Boys, 28 ; Girls, 14.	

### *Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	47
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 14.	
Number belonging to the school, . . . .	41
Boys, 29 ; Girls, 12.	



Present,	38
Boys, 27 ; Girls, 11.	

At the first examination, second and third classes in Arithmetic, very well ; fourth class in Arithmetic, well ; first class in Reading, girls generally very well, boys not quite so well ; first class in Spelling, very well ; second class in Reading and Spelling, generally well ; class in History, well ; first and second classes in Grammar, very well ; classes in Geography, very well. Order excellent in all respects.

At the second examination, the first class in Geography, very well ; first and second classes in Arithmetic, very well ; class in Parsing, indifferently well ; first class in Reading, well ; second class, indifferently ; Spelling by the whole school, imperfect. Order excellent.

At the third examination, the first and second classes in Reading, very well, — a very great improvement from the last examination ; the classes in Geography and Arithmetic, satisfactory ; classes in Grammar, very well ; class in History, very well ; Writing superior, and not exceeded in any school in town. Order, as usual, excellent.

The Committee were highly gratified with the appearance of the school, and with the progress it had made during the year in all the studies to which the pupils had given their attention. To the teacher great praise is due for his efficient and unremitting labors, especially for the marked improvement in the branches of Reading, Writing, and Spelling, in which the pupils were most deficient at the last examination.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### DISTRICT No. I.

#### *On Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Susanna M. Duncklee, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Abner Everett.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	44
“ belonging to the school,	40
“ present,	35



*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	42
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	42
“ present,	. . . . .	37

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	40
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	40
“ present,	. . . . .	38

At the first examination, the Reading and Spelling of the first and fifth classes, very well ; second, third, and fourth, Reading and Spelling, well ; first, second, and third classes in Arithmetic, very well ; fourth and fifth, well ; the first, second, and fifth classes in Geography, very well ; third and fourth, pretty well ; class in Philosophy, very well ; Writing, generally fine hand, and rather cramped ; a class in Grammar, pretty well. Pieces for Declamation and Dialogues, proper and well spoken. Order, in all respects, excellent.

At the second examination, the Primer class appeared very well ; fourth class in Reading and Spelling, well ; third class, generally very well ; second class, the same ; first class in Spelling, generally well ; second class, rather poorly ; all the classes in Arithmetic, very well ; class in Philosophy, well ; classes in Geography, generally well ; class in Grammar, middling well. Order, some degree of restlessness the latter part of the afternoon.

At the third examination, the Reading generally excellent, and by a portion of the first class, in particular, of a very superior order ; Spelling, very good ; the classes in Arithmetic and Geography, generally very well. Order, good.

The Committee are happy to say that this school fully maintains its former high reputation, and is deservedly regarded as one of the best of its class in town.

## DISTRICT NO. II.

*Near the corner of Market and River Streets.*

Teacher, Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Hiram Barker.



*First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	62
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	58
“ present,	. . . . .	50

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	61
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	59
“ present,	. . . . .	45

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	50
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	43
“ present,	. . . . .	40

At the first examination, the Committee were highly gratified with the excellent Reading by the first and second classes, and of select pieces by a number of the pupils ; their Reading was admirable, almost above criticism ; the same may be said of their Spelling. In Geography, all the classes perfect ; the classes in Arithmetic, very well ; class in Philosophy, very well indeed ; Writing, mostly fine hand, pretty well. Order, good.

At the second examination, the school maintained its high character for excellent Reading, and for progress in the studies generally. Order, perfect.

At the third examination, the Committee were deeply interested in the various exercises ; they were relieved by occasional songs, and the interest was heightened by the reading of select pieces by a number of the pupils. The recitations were uniformly excellent, and the character of the school was fully sustained in all respects. Several scholars were noticed with approbation for regular attendance. A number had been uniformly present each day throughout the term ; one little girl had attended with unflinching constancy during both this and the preceding term ; and another had never once been absent from her seat for *five* successive terms.

Upon the whole, the Committee deem it not too much to say of this school, that it may justly be styled *the Model Primary School of Brighton* ; and they are of opinion, that, of its class, very few, if any, can be found superior to it in the Commonwealth.



## DISTRICT No. III.

*Corner of Washington and Faneuil Streets. C*

Teachers, Miss Frances A. Kingsley and Miss Catherine Dana.  
 Prudential Committee, Mr. William R. Champney.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	73
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	66
“ present, . . . . .	56

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	66
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	59
“ present, . . . . .	51

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	67
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	60
“ present, . . . . .	56

At the first examination, first class in Reading, very well; the other classes in Reading did not give very good satisfaction, with the exception of the girls in the second class, who acquitted themselves very well; first and second classes in Philosophy, very well; the classes in Arithmetic, generally very well; the classes in Geography, satisfactory. Writing, mostly large hand, very well. Declamation, very well. Singing, good. Order, very good.

At the second examination, under the instruction of Miss Dana, the pupils appeared to be making progress. The Singing, pleasing. Order, very good. Decided improvement in all respects in most of the classes.

At the third examination, the Committee were pleased to notice much improvement generally throughout the school, in all the various studies; the classes in Reading and Spelling, in a particular manner, elicited the praise of the Committee. The Singing was very good. Quite a number of select dialogues and single pieces were spoken in a happy manner. The writing-books showed improvement; mostly a neat, large, round hand. The order was perfect. The whole examination was



very satisfactory, and highly creditable to the teacher. A large number of the parents and others were present.

#### DISTRICT No. IV.

##### *On Academy Hill.*

Teacher, Miss Catherine Stearns, of Lancaster.

Prudential Committee, John S. Kelly.

##### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	73
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	65
“ present,	. . . . .	48

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	73
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	66
“ present,	. . . . .	56

##### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	60
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	55
“ present,	. . . . .	52

At the first examination, the chairman of the Committee was absent on a journey. The first, second, and third classes in Reading were reported as having acquitted themselves very well; in the fourth class, boys very well, girls not so well; fifth class, pretty well. First and third classes in Arithmetic, very well indeed; fourth, not so well. Class in Philosophy, very well. Writing, generally fine hand, good size, neat. Order, much whispering. Three truancies reported.

At the second examination, the exercises were mostly of an interesting character. The dialogues and other pieces for declamation were well selected and excellently spoken. The singing was good. The school, however, did not appear quite so orderly as could be wished. No doubt, this may be attributed to the influence of a few disorderly children, who had been a continual annoyance to the teacher most of the term.

At the third examination, a large number of the parents and



friends were present. The exercises were relieved by a variety of school songs, and closed with declamations and dialogues by the advanced pupils. The Reading by the various classes was generally very good: that of the first class particularly excellent. One individual of that class was pointed out, who, when she entered the school about two years since, did not know the letters of the alphabet, and is now one of the very best and most advanced scholars. The recitations in Geography, Philosophy, and Arithmetic were highly creditable. Writing, neat, mostly large hand. Specimens of Drawing were exhibited by one of the pupils. Order, a degree of restlessness, but pretty good.

This school ranks high among the Primary Schools in most respects, the teacher having evidently devoted herself with great faithfulness to her trust.

#### DISTRICT No. V.

*On <sup>a</sup>Shepherd Street.*

Teacher, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. B. F. Pierce.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	64
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	53
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	48

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	62
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	54
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	48

#### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	51
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	48
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	41

At the first examination, the Committee were deeply interested in the appearance of the school, which indicated great fidelity and patience on the part of the teacher. All the classes in Arithmetic appeared to good advantage; the first and



third classes were marked perfect. First and second classes in Reading, very good ; Spelling, good ; classes in Geography, very well ; classes in Philosophy and Grammar, very well ; Reading in concert, accurate. Writing, mostly fine hand, fair. Order, good, considering the hot, sultry weather.

At the second examination, the classes in Geography appeared very well ; some of the classes in Arithmetic, very well ; first class in Reading, pretty well ; second class, the same, but rather indistinct. For some reason, the school did not appear to so good advantage as in July. The teacher reported two boys, as causing much disturbance by their bad conduct and evil example, and as being in the habit of lying and using profane and indecent language. One of the boys, being present, was reproved by the Committee.

At the third examination, the exercises manifested great improvement over that of the fall term. The Reading was generally excellent ; the greatest fault, the low tone of voice. The classes in Geography and Arithmetic answered very correctly ; classes in Philosophy and Grammar, very well ; Writing, neat, mostly fine hand, showing improvement. A number of the best scholars were absent on account of sickness. The afternoon was stormy, and unfavorable for the attendance of the pupils and visitors.

The teacher has been faithfully engaged here about three years ; her labors are highly appreciated both by the parents and the Committee.

#### DISTRICT No. VI.

*On Allston Street.*

Teacher, Miss Mary Jane Fletcher.

Prudential Committee, Thomas Wethern.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	31
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	31
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	31

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	34
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	34
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	33



*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	36
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	36
“ present,	. . . . .	34

At the first examination, class in Primer, very interesting ; first, second, and third classes in Oral Arithmetic, imperfect ; first class in Written Arithmetic, well ; second class, imperfect ; second class in Reading, very well, spelling imperfect ; first class in Reading, well, spelling good ; third class in Geography, very well ; first class in Philosophy, very well ; Writing, mostly small hand, neat, and pretty well. Order, first part of the afternoon, good ; latter part, a degree of restlessness.

At the second examination, the Primer class, pretty well ; the Reading of the first, second, and third classes indicated progress ; the advanced pupils in Geography, very well ; class in Oral Arithmetic, indifferently ; another, very well ; an Alphabet class, somewhat interesting. A class on the Map of Massachusetts answered very promptly all the questions asked ; ages, generally five or six years. Order, pretty good.

At the third examination, classes were presented in Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic, Geography, and Philosophy. The lower classes in Reading showed much improvement. Writing, neat, mostly fine hand. Order, better than heretofore ; upon the whole, quite good. The recitations were interspersed with school songs ; dialogues were spoken by the older boys and girls. A large number of visitors were present. The examination passed off pleasantly, and the Committee would add, that the teacher evinced much aptitude to interest and engage the attention of the children.

The average age of the pupils in this school is below that of any other in town, and they are not, therefore, generally so far advanced in their studies.

## INFLUENCE OF PARENTS ON THE PROSPERITY OF SCHOOLS.

Much depends upon the influence of parents, whether children advance in their studies with the rest of the school, or whether they lag behind and act as hindrances to the more studious.



*First.* If the parent is indifferent in relation to the punctual and regular attendance of his child, and for insufficient reasons permits him occasionally to stay away, he not only injures his own child, but also the whole class to which he belongs, as the child falls behind them in his studies, and this has a tendency to embarrass the others, and prevents them from making that rapid progress they otherwise would.

Some of the schools were very much thinned during the summer months, in consequence of the employment of many of the scholars in picking fruit, and in other work. This may be considered important in a pecuniary point of view, but it is judged by some to be a "penny-wise and pound-foolish" policy. Children should either be permitted to attend school constantly and punctually, and make a business of it, or they should be kept steadily employed at home. This half going to school and half staying at home is of no benefit to the child, and a positive evil to the school.

*Second.* Parents have great influence upon the school, for good or evil, by the course they pursue in relation to the teacher. If they speak well of him, he will be respected by the children, and they in their turn will be orderly and obedient in school. Even if the teacher have faults, it is imprudent and impolitic to speak of them before the children. Let parents speak disparagingly of the teacher, whether there be cause or not, and there will soon be trouble ; and in the end, the children will even go a little farther than their parents could desire, unless it be their object to break up the school.

The evil of siding against the teacher was fully illustrated in one of the schools, which was kept in a state of complete anarchy the first part of the spring term, in consequence of a portion of the parents taking this course ; order not being restored till those persons who were disaffected had withdrawn their children from the school.

*Third.* The immoral example of parents exerts a most pernicious influence upon their children, and through them the contagion may be communicated to the whole school. Mere inattention on the part of parents to the moral culture of their children is often found to be productive of the like evil consequences.

The truth of these observations is matter of common expe-



rience, and the Committee regret to say that examples in support of it have not been wanting in our schools the past year. In one instance, by an obdurate habit of lying and profanity in the case of two boys, and in another, by a course of disobedience, deception, and truancy on the part of one or two individuals, the most baneful effects were produced, not only in the corruption of their companions to a greater or less extent with the same vices, but, in the case last alluded to, by inducing a spirit of general insubordination, obliging the teacher to call in the aid of the Committee for its suppression, and finally rendering it necessary, as the only effectual remedy for the evil, to remove the principal delinquents from school.

### DECLAMATION.

Conspicuous among the exercises at the examinations of the Primary Schools have been the Declamations and Dialogues. The practice of public speaking, on the part of the boys, meets with the entire approbation of the School Committee, and is believed to be a useful exercise, as tending to fit them to engage in some of the most important offices to which they may be called in life. Men of the finest abilities and of the highest education are often found poorly qualified to speak in public assemblies, and to exert that influence to which their natural position in society would entitle them, in consequence of a neglect in boyhood of the practice of declamation, and the acquisition of those habits of self-possession and self-reliance which this practice can alone inspire. Hence the importance of this exercise, as a regular part of school discipline for boys.

But with girls the case is far otherwise ; and the Committee would suggest whether the reading of select pieces by this class of pupils would not be more appropriate. Some of the most interesting of all the exercises in two of the Primary Schools and in the High School were of this character. It is proper to remark, however, that it is only in the Primary Schools, and with the view, apparently, of giving increased interest to the examinations, that the girls have taken part in the Declamations and Dialogues.

The Committee would have been pleased had there been specimens of Declamation by the boys in the Grammar Schools. They have already expressed their approbation of the very



credible manner in which some of the lads of the High School acquitted themselves in this exercise.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Notwithstanding the large balance of money unexpended of last year's appropriation, the Committee would recommend the same sum to be raised for the support of the schools the present year.

The reasons for continuing this increased appropriation are the same as those given by our predecessors for proposing it. It is not necessary to explain why the extra amount was not needed last year, except to say that a private school was opened by the former teacher of the Harvard Grammar School, which took off a considerable number of the more advanced pupils, and reduced this school so low that an assistant was not required, as recommended.

At the last examination of the Harvard Grammar School, fifty-five pupils were reported as belonging to the school, with an average attendance through the term of a fraction over fifty. The Committee found in Districts No. III., IV., and V. more scholars than can be advantageously or conveniently instructed in rooms so contracted. All the children who are ten years of age, and upwards, must necessarily be withdrawn, and sent to the Harvard Grammar School. This number will be more than will probably leave the Grammar School the ensuing year, which will, no doubt, be increased to at least seventy scholars, even should the private school be continued. It will, therefore, be absolutely necessary to provide an assistant for that school, who may be advantageously employed in the large and commodious room in which it is now kept.

The High School room is much too contracted for the large number of scholars the Committee, at every visitation, have found assembled there. The Committee are at a loss to suggest any remedy for the inconvenience. They certainly would not recommend any outlay of money for enlarging that building ; nor can the two rooms be advantageously or conveniently used by one teacher, even with an assistant. What is greatly needed for the rapidly increasing population of the central part of the town is a spacious, substantial building of two stories, with rooms as large as that under the Town-Hall, and



with recitation-rooms adjoining ; one story to be occupied by the High School, and the other by the Harvard Grammar School. Or it might be a three-story building ; one story to accommodate Primary Schools. The state of the finances of the town will not justify the Committee in recommending any thing of this kind at present. They would only suggest to some of the wealthy individuals of the town, that, if they wish to have their memories embalmed in the affections of the people, and their names remembered by posterity with gratitude, there never was a better opportunity than the present. Whenever a building is erected, either by private munificence or by the town, the Committee most earnestly hope that the floors will be so substantially and firmly constructed, that the occupants of the lower story may not be disturbed by the creaking of the floor above, as is the case in one of our recently erected school-houses.

The number of scholars between the ages of five and fifteen was reported to the Committee by the assessors to be 208 males and 194 females ; total, 402. This is less than the number given last year, when, according to the report, there were 230 males and 222 females ; total, 452. As there must have been an increase, instead of a decrease, there is evidently an error here, which is stated to have been occasioned by the assessors of last year including in their return, in part, children between the ages of four and sixteen, according to the former requisition of the law. The effect of the correction of this error will probably be, to place Brighton at or near the head of all the towns in the Commonwealth, in respect to the ratio of the number of children to the amount of the appropriation for schools.

### ATTENDANCE.

That a comparison may be made of the attendance at the last term of the year just closed with that of the corresponding term in the preceding year, the Committee present to the town the following tables, showing the whole number of pupils during the term, the number belonging to the several schools at the end of the term, and the number present at the final examination, in each year.



1849 - 50.

452 legal school-children.

	No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.
H. S.	55	49	48
H. G. S.	71	70	58
2d G. S.	63	53	49
No. I.	38	36	34
" II.	47	45	41
" III.	59	58	51
" IV.	68	54	47
" V.	43	43	34
" VI.	31	29	29
	<hr/> 475	<hr/> 437	<hr/> 391

1850 - 1851.

402 legal school-children.

	No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.
H. S.	44	41	41
H. G. S.	57	55	52
2d G. S.	47	41	38
No. I.	40	40	38
" II.	50	43	40
" III.	67	60	56
" IV.	60	55	52
" V.	51	48	41
" VI.	36	36	34
	<hr/> 452	<hr/> 419	<hr/> 392

It will be seen by these tables, that there has been an improvement in attendance on examination day, as this year only twenty-seven pupils were absent, while last year the number was forty-six. The whole number of scholars during the term was not so large as last year, which may be accounted for in part by the fact of there being now about thirty in the private school, who have heretofore belonged to the public schools, and who were accordingly included in last year's report.

### LYCEUM.

The annual course of Lectures was resumed at the Town-Hall, Tuesday evening, December 10th, by Wm. Bates, Esq., of Boston, on "Equality," and, with a single intermission on the 24th, was continued weekly as follows:— By Ralph Waldo Emerson, of Concord, on "Riches"; by Rev. A. B. Muzzey, of Cambridge, on "Switzerland"; by Rev. Andrew L. Stone, of Boston, on "The Moral Tendencies of the Revolution"; by the Hon. Caleb Cushing, of Newbury, on "India"; by Charles Sumner, Esq., of Boston, on "The Value of Time"; by Rev. E. S. Gannett, D. D., of Boston, on "Conversation"; by John S. Holmes, Esq., of Boston, on "Sir Walter Raleigh"; by Rev. S. L. Pomroy, D. D., of Boston, on "The Yankee Character"; by the Rev. Thomas M. Clark, of Boston, on "The Connection of Mechanical Science with Morals"; and the last of the course was on Tuesday evening, February 25, by Rev. F. D. Huntington, of Boston, on "Sincerity."

The Lectures were well attended, gave general satisfaction, and were of an elevating character.



## APPROPRIATION FOR THE COMING YEAR.

The Committee recommend the sum of \$ 3,500 to be raised and appropriated for the payment of teachers' wages and of fuel for the schools, the ensuing year.

With these statements and recommendations, they return into your hands the trust confided to them, ever desiring the continued usefulness and prosperity of the schools, with prayer to God for his blessing, not only upon the schools of Brighton and the united labors of all engaged in them, but upon every effort throughout our Commonwealth to perpetuate our system of free schools, so wisely established by the Pilgrim Fathers.

In behalf of the Committee,

JOSEPH BRECK.

JOSEPH BRECK,	}	<i>Superintending School Committee.</i>
REUBEN HUNTING,		
GEORGE NICHOLS,		

*Brighton, March 3, 1851.*











FOURTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE 4558.5

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1851 - 52.

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CAMBRIDGE:

METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1852.







# REPORT.

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THE Fourteenth Annual Report of the School Committee of Brighton is herewith respectfully submitted to the citizens.

Your Committee have pursued and closed their year of service, which, though, as always, sufficiently laborious, has not, certainly, been without satisfaction. All concerned have, for the most part, coöperated willingly for the general good of the schools. Perhaps no year in our history can be cited when so few difficulties between teachers and pupils have arisen, when so few jars in our complex system have been felt, requiring adjustment at the hands of the Committee. For the most part, the pupils have attended regularly and punctually on the schools. The Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, in the tables appended to his late Report, places our town seventh among the three hundred and twenty-one towns of the Commonwealth, in the average attendance of children on the public schools. So that, even though we admit the force of that ancient maxim of Roman wisdom, that nothing be considered done while aught remains to be done, we must at least find encouragement in the survey of the past year, while urging further improvement and progress.

An important part of our duty is to report to you the

## CONDITION OF THE SEVERAL SCHOOLS.

This has been ascertained as usual, by repeated visits to the schools, by conference with teachers, and by the three



regular examinations in July, November, and February, and will be presented in the order of the schools.

### HIGH SCHOOL, ON ACADEMY HILL.

Teacher, Mr. John Ruggles, of Brighton.

#### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	63
Boys, 28 ; Girls, 35.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	45
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 23.	
Present, . . . . .	40
Boys, 21 ; Girls, 19.	

#### *Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	51
Boys, 26 ; Girls, 25.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	46
Boys, 25 ; Girls, 21.	
Present, . . . . .	45
Boys, 24 ; Girls, 21.	

#### *Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	51
Boys, 27 ; Girls, 24.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	48
Boys, 26 ; Girls, 22.	
Present, . . . . .	48
Boys, 26 ; Girls, 22.	

This school has sustained fully the character ascribed to it by the Committee of the last year in their Report. In the words of the chairman of that board, who devoted himself with great interest and faithfulness to the schools, "It has uniformly appeared well in all departments, in every visitation of the Committee. Its condition," he says, "is in the highest degree satisfactory." We think the same may be said now, though the numbers have been larger. The same studies as heretofore have been pursued, and classes



been examined in the higher English branches, in the Mathematics, in Latin, Greek, and French. The writing of English compositions, and of Greek, Latin, and French exercises, has been continued. Several of the boys are preparing for college. The chairman of the board last year was pleased to inform us, that the scholars then lately admitted at Harvard and at Yale from this school were among the few admitted unconditionally as to their scholarship. At the last examination, held, as before, in the Harvard Grammar School-room, through the day, the unusually large number of visitors present gave evidence of the interest felt by the friends of the pupils in the school. Every pupil belonging to the school was present, and before the hour assigned had quite arrived. The order was excellent. The exercises were very correct; and the pupils acquitted themselves with remarkable self-possession. The reading from the text-books, and the reading of select pieces by several of the girls, were very gratifying. By one, an original and well-written valedictory composition was read. The declamation gave promise of future eminence in that art, two Latin extracts from Cicero's Orations being well spoken among the rest.

At the close of the examination, a very gratifying evidence was furnished of the good-will of the pupils to their teacher, in their presentation to him of a valuable edition of the works of Shakspeare, in eight volumes, octavo. This was prefaced by some appropriate remarks from one of their number, expressive of their respect and esteem for their teacher, to which he replied.

We regret to be obliged to add to this commendation of the teacher and of the school, that the room is insufficient and unsuitable for such an institution. The health of so many advanced pupils is seriously endangered by the narrow bounds of the room. The best purposes of such a school can never be fully realized there, as no space is found for the arrangement and the use of apparatus. For a public examination, the pupils must, each year, be gathered in another school-room, whose usual occupants are then turned out. And finally, the utmost limits of admission



have been reached as respects both the capacity of the floor to receive school-chairs, and the capacity of a single teacher for instruction ; and no more pupils can be admitted there at present with advantage.

The Committee of last year suggested the only remedy for this inconvenience, namely, the erection of a building which should be alike an ornament and an honor to the town, and worthy of such an institution. In eloquent terms, indeed, they urged, it may be remembered, on the attention "of the wealthy individuals of the town, that, if any such would have their names remembered by posterity with gratitude, there never was a better opportunity than the present." Twelve months have gone by since that excellent appeal was made to private munificence ; but the building has not come yet. Fearing lest we may anticipate, even now, the generous promptings of some liberal heart, we defer, at least at this stage of our Report, any different suggestion for supplying the want, and proceed to notice the

## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Town Hall, on Washington Street.*

Teacher, Mr. Solomon A. Poore, of Dorchester.

Assistant, Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton.

#### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	102
Boys, 50 ; Girls, 52.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	72
Boys, 35 ; Girls, 37.	
Present, . . . . .	58
Boys, 28 ; Girls, 30.	

#### *Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	84
Boys, 41 ; Girls, 43.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	79
Boys, 39 ; Girls, 40.	



Present (great rain), . . . . .	58
Boys, 27 ; Girls, 31.	

*Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	102
Boys, 55 ; Girls, 47.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	90
Boys, 46 ; Girls, 44.	
Present, . . . . .	76
Boys, 37 ; Girls, 39.	

Mr. Poore, the former teacher, who had taught a private school in town during the previous year, was reappointed to this school at the opening of the school year. And on the 17th of March, Miss George, who for nearly four years had taught Primary School No. II. with much success, entered upon her duties as assistant. Under these two teachers, the school has been large and very prosperous. The usual branches of Reading, Writing, and Spelling, of Geography, Grammar, and History of the United States, have been here pursued. The writing, on the whole, has not been so good as was expected, though several elegant specimens have been furnished. Some English compositions have been shown us. The principal of the school has well exercised his peculiar talents as a disciplinarian, and the order has uniformly been excellent. The commodious recitation-room has afforded an excellent opportunity for the assistant, who has well exercised her rare gifts as a teacher in bringing forward some pupils who had before enjoyed little advantages of education, as well as in interesting and improving the more advanced. At the last examination, two cases of truancy were reported to us. But the subjects, we were informed, on learning impressively that such habits were not practised and in no wise allowed in this school, whatever might be the practice elsewhere, have since studiously avoided a repetition of the same offence. Very many of the friends of the pupils were present on that occasion ; and the exercises, conducted partly by the Committee and partly by the teacher, were as satisfactory to



them as they were gratifying to those more immediately interested in the pupils.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*On Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Mr. Pliny N. Ward, of Phillipston.

### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	45
Boys, 27 ; Girls, 18.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	30
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 12.	
Present, . . . . .	25
Boys, 15 ; Girls, 10.	

### *Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	46
Boys, 31 ; Girls, 15.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	42
Boys, 29 ; Girls, 13.	
Present (most severe rain-storm), . . . . .	19
Boys, 14 ; Girls, 5.	

### *Third Examination.*

Deferred from illness of the Teacher. On a recent visit to the school, we found, —

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	51
Boys, 38 ; Girls, 13.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	43
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 10.	
Present, . . . . .	39
Boys, 31 ; Girls, 8.	

We have been gratified with the improvement in this school. The same studies are pursued here as in the Harvard Grammar School. On the visits of the Committee, and at the examinations, the order has been found quite remarkable. The teacher, in his last report to the Committee, writes, "My pupils generally won my esteem by commendable deportment in school." We have seldom



found in any school better writing than here. The School Register is kept very correctly and neatly. Pelton's Outline Maps have been procured for this school the past year, at a cost of twenty-five dollars, from the town's portion of the State School Fund, which, as is well known, must be devoted, in some way, to school purposes. Arranged on rollers, in one single case, against the wall of the room, they afford advantages for the study of Geography superior to those of any other school in the town. The number of pupils belonging has rarely reached fifty, but usually exceeded forty. Average attendance the last term, thirty-five. On a written application from several families at the north part of the town, the Committee have lately enlarged the limits within which pupils resident might attend at the Harvard Grammar School, as more convenient of access, and this has somewhat lessened the numbers in this school. Its ranks must be increased next term, by accessions from the Primaries. The teacher, we are sorry to add, was taken sick a week before the close of the term ; and the examination assigned for March 6th was accordingly postponed.

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

This department comprises the groundwork of our present school system, embracing all children under ten years of age, and introducing them at that period to the Grammar Schools, from which they may go, on examination, to the High School. With one or two exceptions, the same teachers have been employed during the past as in the previous year. In Primary School No. II., Miss Mary Jane Fletcher, of this town, has taught in place of Miss Anna J. George, appointed assistant in the Harvard Grammar School. In No. III., Miss Eliza Harris, of this town, was employed during the second term, while Miss Dana was taken from her work by sickness. In No. IV., Miss Susan G. Heard, of this town, succeeded, at the opening of the year, Miss Stearns, resigned ; and Miss Eliza Jane Heard has been employed the last two weeks of the term in place of her sister, who was unwell. In No. VI., Miss Hannah A. Hoyt, who, by reason of sickness, had relinquished her



charge, for most of the previous year, to Miss Fletcher, returned again, and has taught that school.

With various gifts for imparting knowledge and securing the affection and good-will of the pupils, and for maintaining the order of the school and the confidence and harmony of all concerned, these young ladies, it is believed, have all devoted themselves very faithfully to their employment. We would recommend to our successors a more rigid exclusion from the Primary Schools, than has been heretofore observed, of all studies pertaining properly to the Grammar Schools. When we consider how important it is that pupils be well grounded in the first elements of learning, and how often, in passing into the higher grades of schools, they are found deficient in that common, but most important, accomplishment of spelling, we cannot but desire that all the teacher's time and effort in the Primary School should be devoted to training her little, though numerous charge, in the alphabet of knowledge.

We have been much pleased to witness among the Primary teachers so laudable an ambition to benefit their pupils, to secure their punctual attendance, particularly at the examinations, and to establish the good name of their schools. We present the following brief details of the condition of each.

#### DISTRICT No. I.

##### *On Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Susanna M. Duncklee, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Abner Everett.

##### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	56
“ belonging to the school,	51
“ present,	44

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	45
“ belonging to the school,	43
“ present,	39



*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	40
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	36
“ present,	. . . . .	36

It is somehow counted very fortunate by pupils to get into this school, and the Committee have found it a little troublesome to get pupils out. Some there have been strangely deaf to the summons addressed to them, as in the parable of old, “Friend, go up higher.” Next term they must go, and leave a very favorite teacher. In the summer, we found that the school had never been so large before; nevertheless, the order was quite as commendable as any Primary affords. At the last examination, not a pupil was absent. Punctual attendance, and good recitations, have marked our visits here. The teacher has been highly successful, and now commences her sixth year of service.

## DISTRICT No. II.

*Near the corner of River and Market Streets.*

Teachers, Miss Anna J. George and Miss Mary Jane Fletcher, both of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Hiram Barker.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	57
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	47
“ present,	. . . . .	41

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	49
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	45
“ present,	. . . . .	43

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	52
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	48
“ present,	. . . . .	40



The friends of the pupils of this school have never been quite pleased with the Committee for taking away their attached teacher, who had been with them almost four years, to fill a situation in the Harvard Grammar School. Miss Fletcher, with some previous experience as a teacher in No. VI., has devoted herself to the work of supplying her place. On the whole, those interested have manifested a disposition to be reconciled to the change, as they have come in good numbers, and have found, for the most part, correct recitations, and friendly relations between the teacher and her scholars.

### DISTRICT NO. III.

*Corner of Washington and Fanewil Streets.*

Teacher, Miss Catherine C. Dana, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Wm. R. Champney.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	73
" belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	70
" present,	.	.	.	.	.	68

#### *Second Examination.*

Omitted. (Teacher sick.)

#### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	59
" belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	54
" present,	.	.	.	.	.	52

We have been much gratified at finding the condition of this school so good, when, on account of the sickness of Miss Dana, it has been subject to a temporary change of teachers. A temporary change, where the charge is not relinquished and a successor formally installed in place of the one resigned, is often a disadvantage to a school. Miss Eliza Harris, of this town, taught during the second term, and as successfully, perhaps, in view of this disadvantage, and of the large number of pupils, as any one could do. At the summer examination, seventy pupils belonged to the



school, and two only were absent. We have seldom seen more to commend in a school, than at the visitation of last week here, both as respects the order, the general correctness of the exercises, and the interest manifested by the parents and friends of the school.

#### DISTRICT No. IV.

##### *On Academy Hill.*

Teacher, Miss Susan G. Heard, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Daniel Baxter.

##### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	68
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	64
“ present,	. . . . .	59

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	65
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	57
“ present,	. . . . .	56

##### *Third Examination.*

Omitted. (Teacher sick.)

On a recent visit to the school we found, —

Number through the term,	. . . . .	49
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	48
“ present,	. . . . .	44

At the summer examination, sixty-four children belonged; and in a most severe rain-storm, through the kindness of some of the parents in providing vehicles, all were brought together but five. At the examination in November, one only was absent out of fifty-seven. Although not intending to detail here the merits or demerits of particular exercises in the Primary Schools, we cannot forbear bestowing special praise on the neatness of the writing-books, and particularly on the specimens of map-drawing in this school. For correctness and beauty, these latter are the most remarkable which we have ever seen from pupils of



the same ages. Sickness has lessened the numbers of late, and the teacher herself was obliged, from the same cause, to relinquish her work two weeks before the close of the term, her place being supplied by her sister. We were sorry to postpone an examination which, we feel sure, would have gratified us much ; and especially, to lose, for the new term, the services of one who has almost too faithfully devoted herself to the school, and won alike the warm regards of the children and of their friends.

### DISTRICT No. V.

*On Shepard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. B. F. Pierce.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	63
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	54
“ present,	. . . . .	51

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	57
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	56
“ present,	. . . . .	49

#### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	52
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	52
“ present,	. . . . .	47

The natural equanimity of the teacher of this school is very little disturbed when we come to inquire into the attainments and proficiency of her pupils. She has confidence in what they have learned. She knows better than most teachers do just how much each one has gained. This is different from knowing just how much of the text-book each one has been over. Teaching is her great work. She has been at the same post, most faithful and diligent, we believe never taken off by sickness, for almost four years.



She makes her scholars thorough. There is little hurrying, a good deal of deliberation at the examinations, remarkable order, and very general accuracy in the recitations.

### DISTRICT No. VI.

*On Allston Street, near Beacon.*

Teacher, Miss Hannah A. Hoyt, of Waltham.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Abel Meriam.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	51
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	44
“ present,	. . . . .	42

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	45
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	45
“ present,	. . . . .	41

#### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	46
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	43
“ present,	. . . . .	41

At the summer examination, forty of the friends of the pupils came in; which number, with forty-two pupils present out of forty-four belonging, about filled the small room. Some emulation has been manifested among the pupils as to regularity of attendance, and the Register has given a good account here. Thus our minutes in November say, “Seven boys and two girls not once absent.” And at the last examination, we found that one boy had not been absent a half-day for three years in succession. When the teacher in former years was in No. III. and in No. II., she had this way of keeping children and the childrens’ friends very near to her. And now, in No. VI., after having been repeatedly obliged to abandon her favorite employment of teaching from ill health, she has still some of the same gift left. While interrupted somewhat during the last year, and



assisted meanwhile by an advanced pupil still in the school, she has been able to present good order, and exercises very satisfactory.

### APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

It comes next in order to show how these several schools have been thus sustained on the appropriation for the year. The Committee present the following statement of their use of the appropriation for teachers' wages and fuel, and of the amount received by the town as its portion of the State School Fund : —

Amount received from State School Fund, . . .	\$ 86.43	
Paid for Pelton's Outline Maps for the Second Grammar School, . . .	\$ 25.00	
Paid for case and rollers for same, . . .	8.68	
Paid for Fowle's small Outline Maps for the recitation-room of the Harvard Grammar School, . . . . .	6.00	39.68
		<hr/>
Leaving a balance of . . . . .		46.75
Amount appropriated by the town, . . . . .		3,500.00
		<hr/>
		\$ 3,546.75

Paid for teachers' wages : —

For the High School, . . . . .	\$ 800.00	
" " Harvard Grammar School, . . . . .	600.00	
" " Assistant Teacher in do., . . . . .	232.70	
" " Second Grammar School, . . . . .	600.00	
" " Six Primary Schools, . . . . .	1,062.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 3,294.70

Paid for fuel : —

District No. I., including Second Gram- mar School, 11,000 lbs. coal, . . . . .	\$ 33.50	
Charcoal for do., . . . . .	5.12	
	<hr/>	\$ 38.62
District No. II., 5,710 lbs. coal, . . . . .	\$ 19.20	
Charcoal for do., . . . . .	4.87	
	<hr/>	\$ 24.07
		<hr/>
Amount carried forward, . . . . .		\$ 62.69



Amount brought forward,		\$ 62.69
District No. III., 4,000 lbs. coal,	\$ 12.00	
Charcoal for do.,	1.71	
	<hr/>	13.71
District No. IV., including the High		
School, 11,380 lbs. coal,	\$ 37.11	
Charcoal for do.,	5.85	
Wood       “	3.50	
	<hr/>	46.46
District No. V., 2,800 lbs. coal,	\$ 8.40	
Charcoal for do.,	2.67	
	<hr/>	11.07
District No. VI., 4,000 lbs. coal,	\$ 12.50	
Wood for do.,	3.25	
	<hr/>	15.75
Harvard Grammar School, including		
all fuel used in the Town Hall dur-		
ing the year, 17,670 lbs. coal,	\$ 57.40	
Charcoal for ditto,	15.85	
	<hr/>	73.25
	<hr/>	
Total for fuel,	\$ 222.93	
“ wages,	3,294.70	
	<hr/>	\$ 3,517.63
Appropriation,	\$ 3,546.75	
Expenditures,	3,517.63	
	<hr/>	
Balance,	\$ 29.12	

### SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The expenditures on school-houses the past year have been small. The interior of the Second Grammar School, and that of Primary No. I., have been painted and papered. The condition of No. II. is the least satisfactory of all. The building appears to have seen hard service in former years. There is no play-ground inclosed, and the children pass from the school-room directly upon the street. The Committee would call your attention to the importance of securing a small piece of land connecting immediately with



this school-ground and building, and fronting on a new street not named, parallel with that on which the building stands. It is understood that this piece of land can be now purchased. By laying the two parcels of land together, the school-house might be very favorably located, and enjoy a pleasant southern entrance, instead of a bleak, unsheltered, northern entrance, as now. At the same time, a commodious and safe play-ground would also be obtained.

Primary School-house No. III. is still uninclosed, as reported to you two years since. With streets about it on every side, we cannot but regard its situation as highly perilous to the small children who assemble there. Moreover, as the pupils, on leaving the building for recess, are so directly in the streets, the situation presents a temptation not always resisted, to annoy the passers-by. Wiser legislation, we think, could hardly be devised, touching this class of buildings, than to make it a penal offence for towns to suffer a school-house to stand upon a public street, without a safe and sufficient inclosure.

### SCHOOL CHILDREN AND ATTENDANCE.

The number of children between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the first day of May last, according to law, was 445 ; males, 237 ; females, 208. This exceeded the number of the previous year by forty-three ; an increase in a single year about sufficient for one new school. We append some tables showing the numbers attending through the last term on each school, and the numbers belonging and present in each at the closing examinations for the last two years.

1850 - 1851.				1851 - 1852.			
402 legal school-children.				445 legal school-children.			
	No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.		No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.
H. S.	44	41	41	H. S.	51	48	48
H. G. S.	57	55	52	H. G. S.	102	90	76
2d G. S.	47	41	38	2d G. S.	51	43	39
No. I.	40	40	38	No. I.	40	36	36
" II.	50	43	40	" II.	52	48	40
" III.	67	60	56	" III.	59	54	52
" IV.	60	55	52	" IV.	49	48	44
" V.	51	48	41	" V.	52	52	47
" VI.	36	36	34	" VI.	46	43	41
	452	419	392		502	462	423



Thus we see that, of the 462 pupils belonging to the several schools at the closing examination, 39 were absent, an average of four to a school. Last year, 27 were absent. But the number then belonging to all the public schools was 419, and we must perhaps expect more absences out of 462 than out of 419. Still, we should strive to make the numbers belonging and present more and more nearly identical each year. In two schools, as may be seen, every pupil was present.

### LYCEUM.

The Lectures have been well sustained, as in former years. The Introductory Lecture was given at the Town Hall, Tuesday evening, November 11th, by J. V. C. Smith, M. D., of Boston, on "Palestine," and, with intermissions on the 25th of November and 23d of December, the course was continued weekly as follows: — By Rev. Alexander H. Vinton, D. D., of Boston, on "Loyalty"; by Rev. J. W. Chickering, of Portland, Me., on "Switzerland"; by Professor William Blasius, of Germany, on "The West Cambridge and Medford Tornado of August, 1851"; by Rev. Warren Burton, of Salem, on "The Prevalent Faults and Follies in Domestic Education"; by Oliver W. Holmes, M. D., of Boston, on "The Love of Nature"; by Hon. N. P. Banks, of Waltham, on "Lord Bolingbroke and his Times"; by Rev. William Horton, of Brookline, on "Knowledge, the Handmaid of Power, Virtue, Happiness"; by Frederic L. Washburn, Esq., of Boston, on "Anti-ism"; by Rev. George Putnam, D. D., of Roxbury, on "Light"; by Rev. F. D. Huntington, of Boston, on "The First Half of the Nineteenth Century"; by Rev. E. S. Gannett, D. D., of Boston, on "New England Ideas and Institutions."

### FURTHER PROVISION FOR SCHOOLS.

Having thus completed our survey of the present condition of the schools, we are presented with the question, How shall we best provide for the annual increase of school-children, and supply for all, as they are prepared to share them, those higher advantages of education which are



at present enjoyed here? On this subject your Committee have bestowed all the attention which they could give to it amidst the various school duties of the closing year, and have sought, as far as possible, to learn the opinions and wishes of others. They believe that more school accommodations must be provided. Primary School No. IV. had sixty-four scholars belonging last summer, and Primary No. III. had seventy belonging. These numbers, we feel confident, will be larger the coming season. And even if so many pupils could by any means be crowded into the rooms, it would be impossible for one teacher properly to instruct them. There is no room at all in either of the school-houses in these districts for an assistant. Will you, to supply such a room, enlarge those buildings, one of which is the Academy, or will you provide for the exigency in another way?

Then, in regard to the High School, the same difficulty meets us. There is not room there for the pupils, if we look to their health and comfort. Let not those who have never been in the room judge of this. But let the parents, whose children, pursuing the advanced studies, and requiring of course more air and space than the younger pupils, sit there day by day, and from whose ranks we have followed one and another to an early grave, — let the parents of such, we ask, go and see, and judge, and say if this is just as it should be.

Further, the work which we require to have done in that school, the variety of studies, the accuracy of scholarship which we ask, is a wholly unreasonable work for a single teacher. This seems so obvious, and would, we believe, be so immediately allowed by those most competent to judge, that we cannot argue for it. An assistant should at once be employed, even with the present number of scholars, and the duties of instruction shared by both. An assistant, we need not add, cannot be employed without providing additional room. But to add at all to the numbers, and still ask for the same variety and accuracy of study, would, we think, be both unreasonable and unjust.

The Committee, in view of these considerations, have



unanimously come to the conclusion, that the subject of erecting a larger and more suitable building, as urged upon your notice by the Committee of the past year, be entertained. Should such a building as they then proposed be erected, provision would be made in it for a large Primary School,<sup>5</sup> which, with space enough for an assistant, might embrace a hundred pupils, or more ; and thus our difficulty in regard to accommodations for Primaries Nos. III. and IV., contiguous, would be obviated.

The Committee are not prepared to-day to submit any more specific plan for a building as proposed. But they recommend that the subject be referred to a committee, who shall report to the town at the adjournment of this meeting in April.

### APPROPRIATION.

And as the appropriation needed for schools the ensuing year will depend, in some measure, upon the action of the town in reference to the subject above proposed, the Committee recommend that to-day the same appropriation be made as was made last year. At the April meeting, should the town see fit, in view of the Report which they shall then receive from their special committee, the appropriation can be increased.

To facilitate the action of the town, the Committee respectfully submit the following resolution, as embodying their views presented in this Report.

*“Resolved, That a Committee be chosen to take into consideration the subject of erecting a building which shall provide further accommodations for the High School, and for pupils attending on Primaries Nos. III. and IV., and to report at the adjournment of this meeting in April next.”*

All which is respectfully submitted, on behalf of the Committee.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	} <i>Superintending</i>
THEODORE MATCHETT,	
EDMUND RICE, JR.,	

*School Committee.*

*Brighton, March 8, 1852.*



*Brighton, March 8, 1852.*

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Brighton, held this day, the foregoing Report having been read, it was voted that it be accepted and printed as usual, for distribution among the families in town.

Attest,

WM. WARREN,

*Town Clerk.*

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On motion of Thomas W. Herrick, a committee of five was chosen, to be added to the General School Committee, for the purpose of considering together that part of the Report which is embodied in the above resolution, and of reporting thereon to the town in April next.

And Messrs. Thomas W. Herrick, Jonathan Whitney, John Harris, Silas Stevens, and Samuel Bigelow were chosen.











FIFTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

4958.5

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1852 - 53.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
METCALF AND COMPANY,  
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.  
1853.







FIFTEENTH  
2075  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1852-53.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
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1853.







## R E P O R T.

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THE School Committee of Brighton respectfully submit their Fifteenth Annual Report.

In the absence of one of the members of the Board from town since the first of February, the duties of the closing year have devolved on the remaining two. They would take this occasion to express their grateful sense of the service which that gentleman has rendered while one of the Committee. He has devoted himself with unusual interest and fidelity to the wants of the schools. And they cannot but regret having been deprived of his assistance at a time when the labors of the year were greatest, and when his coöperation was most needed in their councils.

The year has been marked by no changes in the school system. The High, the Grammar, and the Primary Schools have been sustained as usual; and with but few exceptions, to be noted in their place, under the same teachers. In their last Report, the Committee set forth the urgent want for the High School of a larger and more suitable building; and recommended the reference of that subject to a special committee, to report thereon. A committee of five was accordingly appointed, to be joined with the School Committee. After repeated conferences together, they reported to the Town, at a meeting in April, that, in their judgment, it was expedient and desirable to erect a new building forthwith. A difference of opinion among the citizens as to the best location of the building,



together with other considerations which were presented, caused the subject to be postponed, and accordingly no action has been had thereon during the past year.

The Committee cannot but feel, that the same reasons which were before urged for providing a more commodious building for the High School do still exist. Among these reasons, as they stated last year, is the want of more room for the advanced pupils who attend that School, and the consequent peril to health which is incurred; the entire absence of any accommodation by which an assistant teacher might be employed, and the consequent inconvenience and unnatural burden imposed upon one, of teaching so great a variety of studies; and, in general, the want of a building in every way more worthy such an institution, which offers to all the youth of the town, who will avail themselves of it, the advantages of a complete English and classical education. Notwithstanding these reasons, the Committee do not now recommend the immediate erection of another building for that School, since a still more pressing occasion, to be presently noticed, for a new school-edifice, in another section of the town, has arisen within the past year.

## CONDITION OF THE SEVERAL SCHOOLS.

### HIGH SCHOOL, ON ACADEMY HILL.

Teacher, Mr. John Ruggles, of Brighton.

#### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	49
Boys, 26 ; Girls, 23.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	42
Boys, 20 ; Girls, 22.	
Present, . . . . .	40
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 22.	

#### *Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	46
Boys. 22 ; Girls, 24.	



Belonging to the School, . . . . .	43
Boys, 19; Girls, 24.	
Present, . . . . .	41
Boys, 18; Girls, 23.	

*Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	43
Boys, 20; Girls, 23.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	33
Boys, 16; Girls, 17.	
Present, . . . . .	31
Boys, 15; Girls, 16.	

Pupils are admitted to this school, as is known, by examination, from the Grammar Schools. The Committee prepared a series of questions in Arithmetic, Grammar, and Geography, which candidates for admission were required to answer. They were provided with slates and writing apparatus; and with no books at hand, and with no assistance whatever from one another, from teachers, or from the Committee, were put upon their own qualifications for the result. No juster, more impartial, or more satisfactory method, it is believed, can be pursued, for deciding on the qualifications of different pupils for admission from a school of lower to one of higher grade.

At the three regular examinations of this school, held as usual, according to law, the Committee have been pleased to find very general accuracy and correctness in all the exercises. The study of the higher English branches, the Mathematics, the Latin, Greek, and French languages, Declamation, and the writing of English Composition, are here pursued. Shortly before the last examination, several pupils had left the school, either by removal from town or otherwise. Additions will be made to it from the Grammar Schools at the commencement of the next term. Pupils were admitted to College, Harvard and Yale, the past season, as in the year previous. It is highly desirable that the labors of the teacher who has so faithfully and successfully devoted himself to the interests of this school,



for many years, might be shared, as usual in such schools, with an assistant. But for this, a larger room is indispensable. We believe few teachers would be able, under equal disadvantages, to present, year by year, so well ordered and well instructed a school.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Town Hall, on Washington Street.*

Principal, Mr. S. A. Poore, of Brighton.

Assistant, Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton.

#### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	110
Boys, 60; Girls, 50.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	88
Boys, 45; Girls, 43.	
Present, . . . . .	64
Boys, 30; Girls, 34.	

#### *Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	103
Boys, 54; Girls, 49.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	91
Boys, 51; Girls, 40.	
Present, . . . . .	73
Boys, 37; Girls, 36.	

#### *Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	113
Boys, 68; Girls, 45.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	98
Boys, 58; Girls, 40.	
Present, . . . . .	83
Boys, 46; Girls, 37.	

This school has been very large the past year. The building, however, can accommodate even more pupils



than now belong. The services of both the principal and the assistant teacher have been entirely satisfactory to the Committee. They have found at each examination, and at other visits to the school, most remarkable order and good recitations. They have noticed with pleasure a marked improvement in the penmanship, on which, in part, as may be remembered, they reflected last year. And in addition to the other usual studies pursued here, some very good specimens of map-drawing have been exhibited. At the request of some families resident at the eastern part of the town, the Committee, the last year, enlarged the boundaries of this school; and more pupils from that section were accordingly enrolled in its register.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*On Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Mr. Lewis A. Grant, of Londonderry, Vt.

### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	59
Boys, 32 ; Girls, 27.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	34
Boys, 17 ; Girls, 17.	
Present, . . . . .	30
Boys, 14 ; Girls, 16.	

### *Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	42
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 20.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	40
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 18.	
Present, . . . . .	35
Boys, 20 ; Girls, 15.	

### *Third Examination.*

Omitted. — (School-house burned.)

On a recent count, —

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	51
Boys, 27 ; Girls, 24.	



Belonging to the school, . . . . .	45
Boys, 24 ; Girls, 21.	
Present, . . . . .	40
Boys, 20 ; Girls, 20.	

At the commencement of the school year, Mr. Ward, who had taught this school two years, declined the charge of it, to which he was reëlected. Mr. Grant was appointed on the 30th of March, and the School was reopened on the 1st of April. His services were engaged for the remainder of the school term, seventeen weeks, at ten dollars per week, the terms being the same on which the other Grammar School teachers had been at first employed. At the close of that engagement, Mr. Grant was employed for the residue of the year, at the rate of six hundred dollars.

Mr. Grant has been highly successful in this school. The two examinations which have been held were very satisfactory to us. The order was remarkable ; the pupils have seemed interested, and the recitations were, for the most part, uncommonly correct. At the second or fall examination, forty pupils belonged. Forty-five belonged when the school was suspended, a few weeks since, on the destruction of the building by fire.

On the evening of February 3d, between the hours of eight and ten, the school-house was entirely consumed by fire. This building was erected on Harvard Street, near its junction with River Street, in the year 1846, and the lower story was first occupied by Primary School No. I. in July of that year. In December, 1848, the second story was occupied by the Second Grammar School, then first established. The occasion of the fire is unknown. The most complete set of maps in the town was in the Grammar School, and most conveniently arranged on rollers, in a case against the wall. These, with all the books, furniture, and apparatus of both schools, were entirely lost. The Committee, having been unable to procure a suitable room, have suspended the Second Grammar School, and wait the action of the town in regard to supplying the loss.



## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. I.

*On Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Susanna M. Duncklee, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Jacob F. Taylor.

*First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . . .	42
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	38
“ present, . . . . .	35

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	45
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	45
“ present, . . . . .	41

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	46
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	45
“ present, . . . . .	38

This school had been, as usual, highly prosperous, until the fire which deprived it of a home. A room was, however, found, in an unoccupied building on Cambridge Street, nearly opposite Harvard Street. This building, with two or three others contiguous, had been erected a few years since for the purpose of making wrought-iron cannon, but had never been used. The Committee repaired and fitted up a room here, at an expense of \$45.27, as may be seen by the Treasurer's Report, and the school was resumed on the 14th of February. The attendance on this school has been good through the year. At the fall examination, we found that quite a number of pupils had not been absent a half-day through the term, and that one boy had not been absent for a year. At the closing examination, notwithstanding the interruption, all things appeared well. The teacher has been very faithfully devoted to this school for six years. We regret that, her health having suffered, she must now relinquish the charge



of it. She leaves with the highest satisfaction of the Committee and friends of the school with her long services. A large number of the friends of the pupils were present at the closing examination, and presented to the teacher, through the Committee, a valuable gold watch, as a token of their regard and good wishes.

## PRIMARY NO. II.

*Near the corner of River and Market Streets.*

Teachers, Mrs. Harriet A. Stratton, of Westerly, R. I., and Miss Caroline K. Nickerson, of Orleans, Mass.

Prudential Committee, Mr. John Mentzer.

### *First Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	78
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	70
“ present, . . . . .	45

### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	61
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	50
“ present, . . . . .	36

### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	63
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	56
“ present, . . . . .	40

A school seldom appears so well at the close of the year, if it has been subject to a change of teachers, as if taught by one only. Our minutes, however, at each examination here, commend highly certain exercises. The writing-books have not appeared as well as those of some of the Primaries; and more pupils have been absent at each examination, as may be seen, than usual. No teacher can present the good school which we expect, unless care is taken in each family to have the children attend regularly and punctually. Mrs. Stratton taught the school the first two terms; and the present teacher, who has been quite successful through one term, can be retained, we are glad to say, another year.



## PRIMARY NO. III.

*Corner of Washington and Faneuil Streets.*

Teacher, Miss Catherine C. Dana, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Wm. R. Champney.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	60
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	54
“ present, . . . . .	50

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	58
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	56
“ present, . . . . .	46

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	59
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	56
“ present, . . . . .	43

The neatness and beauty of the writing-books and of the School Register, and the general appearance of the room, have been commended at each visit made to this school. No school surpasses this in these respects, and they are not unimportant matters. It seems to us a very happy school. The absences at the last examination were occasioned by sickness. For the winter term then ending, eight boys and five girls were reported as not having been absent one half-day. The exercises have been uncommonly correct at each examination. The teacher has had charge of the school, with much success, since September, 1850.

## PRIMARY NO. IV.

*On Academy Hill.*

Teacher, Miss Sarah J. Kingsley, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Daniel Kingsley.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	68
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	62
“ present, . . . . .	48



*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	71
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	70
“ present, . . . . .	67

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	78
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	70
“ present, . . . . .	59

On the days of the first and last examinations the weather was very stormy, making the number of absentees larger than usual. At the second examination, as may be seen, three pupils only were absent out of seventy. We love neatness and order in a school-room, and must take special notice of them when found, as here, in the beauty of the writing-books and of the School Register, and of the specimens of map-drawing. This has been the largest Primary School in town; and we award much credit to the teacher for her management of so many children, and for their recitations, which, at our several visits, have been generally accurate.

## PRIMARY No. V.

*On Shepard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. B. F. Pierce.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	67
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	55
“ present, . . . . .	48

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	54
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	54
“ present, . . . . .	49

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	46
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	46
“ present, . . . . .	44



The teacher has been engaged in this school almost five years; and each year the Committee have had much the same report to give of her fidelity and success, and of the correctness of her pupils in the studies in which they were examined. The order has been remarkably good. The Register is very neatly kept; and the writing-books at the last examination showed improvement. The attendance of the pupils has been very regular. Two boys were not once absent last term. The examination just held was very satisfactory; and we regret that, by reason of stormy weather, more of the friends of the school were not present to witness the exercises.

### PRIMARY No. VI.

*On Allston Street, near Beacon.*

Teachers, Miss Hannah A. Hoyt, of Waltham; Miss Abby A. Champney, and Miss Sarah M. English, both of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Abel Meriam.

#### *First Examination.*

Omitted. (Teacher sick.)

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	33
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	31
“ present, . . . . .	29

#### *Third Examination.*

Omitted. (Teacher sick.)

On a recent visit to the school we found,—

Number through the term, . . . . .	34
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	31
“ present, . . . . .	30

This school has been subject to various fortunes the past year. It was opened under its former teacher, Miss Hoyt, who, by reason of ill health, was obliged to resign the



charge in July. Miss Champney commenced as teacher on the 12th of July; and before the year closed, she too was compelled from sickness to relinquish the office. Miss English opened on the 15th of February, three weeks since. On the whole, we cannot say that the school has made much progress. We hope that by the steady, uniform services of a single teacher, and by the coöperation of all the families connected with the school, another year may present a better account.

### APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

In sustaining these schools the past year, the Committee have kept within the appropriation. The town's portion of the State School Fund, which, by the terms of its grant, must be appropriated to school purposes, amounted to . . . . . \$ 99.01  
 Amount appropriated by the town, . . . . . 3,500.00  


---

 \$ 3,599.01

Paid for teachers' wages : —

To the Principal of the High School,	\$ 900.00	
“ “ “ Harvard Gram-		
mar School,	625.00	
“ Assistant “ “ “	250.00	
“ “ Teacher of the Second Gram-		
mar School, from April,	500.00	
“ Teachers of six Primary Schools,	1,026.00	
		<hr/> \$ 3,301.00

Paid for fuel : —

Primary No. I., including Second Gram-		
mar School, 17,000 lbs. coal,	\$ 53.38	
Charcoal for do.,	5.67	
		<hr/> \$ 59.05
Primary No. II., 3,000 lbs. coal,	\$ 9.37	
Charcoal for do.,	5.34	
		<hr/> \$ 14.71
Amount carried forward,		<hr/> \$ 73.76



Amount brought forward,		\$ 73.76
Primary No. III., 7,000 lbs. coal,	\$ 22.63	
Charcoal for do.,	3.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 25.63
Primary No. IV., including the High		
School, 18,010 lbs. coal,	\$ 56.04	
Charcoal for do.,	6.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 62.04
Primary No. V., 2,400 lbs. coal,	\$ 7.20	
Charcoal for do.,	4.38	
	<hr/>	\$ 11.58
Primary No. VI., 2,400 lbs. coal,	\$ 7.50	
Bark for do.,	4.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 11.50
Harvard Grammar School, including		
all fuel in the Town Hall during the		
year, 25,570 lbs. coal,	\$ 88.71	
Charcoal for do.,	20.96	
	<hr/>	\$ 109.67
Total for fuel,	\$ 294.18	
“ wages,	3,301.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 3,595.18
Appropriation,	\$ 3,599.01	
Expenditures,	3,595.18	
	<hr/>	
Balance,	\$ 3.83	

## SCHOOL-CHILDREN AND ATTENDANCE.

The number of children between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the 1st day of May last, according to law, was 455;—males 241, females 214. The following tables show the numbers attending through the last term on each school, and the numbers belonging and present in each at the closing examinations, for the last two years.



1851 - 52.				1852 - 53.			
445 legal school-children.				455 legal school-children.			
	No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.		No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.
H. S.	51	48	48	H. S.	43	33	31
H. G. S.	102	90	76	H. G. S.	113	98	83
2d G. S.	51	43	39	2d G. S.	51	45	40
No. I.	40	36	36	No. I.	46	45	38
" II.	52	48	40	" II.	63	56	40
" III.	59	54	52	" III.	59	56	43
" IV.	49	48	44	" IV.	78	70	59
" V.	52	52	47	" V.	46	46	44
" VI.	46	43	41	" VI.	34	31	30
	<hr/> 502	<hr/> 462	<hr/> 423		<hr/> 533	<hr/> 480	<hr/> 408

Year by year we must urge on parents the necessity of a regular and punctual attendance of the children, if we would present good schools, or have the pupils reap the rightful advantages which our opportunities afford.

The Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, in his last Annual Report, places Brighton 23d among the 322 towns of the State in regard to the average attendance of children on the public schools. He takes the number of children between 5 and 15 last returned to him from this place (445), and the average attendance (408), and expresses in decimals the ratio of one to the other.  $\frac{408}{445}$ , changed to a decimal, gives .916; and only 22 towns give a higher expression. No town nearer to us than Waltham stands so high, and that is 20th. Charlestown is 111th; Watertown, 140th; Brookline, 143d; Somerville, 148th; Boston, 160th; Cambridge, 176th; Roxbury, 186th; Newton, 232d; Dorchester, 238th; West Roxbury, 246th; and Bradford, 322d, lowest on the list, returning 382 children, and an average attendance on the public schools of only 152.

These tables show that fewer of our children than in most towns are absent from the public schools.

## TOWN'S RANK AS TO ITS APPROPRIATION.

The Secretary of the Board of Education presents, also, in a table, each year, a list of all the towns in the State, in the numerical order of the sums which their ap-



propriations would divide for each child between the ages of 5 and 15. Brighton, in his last report, stands 6th among the 322 towns; her last appropriation of \$3,500 allowing to each child of the 445 last returned \$7.86. Brookline stands at the head of the list; her appropriation of \$4,100 giving to each of her 331 children \$12.38. Boston stands 4th; her appropriation allowing to each child \$7.95. Year before last Brookline stood 1st, Boston 2d, and Brighton 3d. And in the years 1841-42 and 1842-43 Brighton stood 1st. Of the towns about us Cambridge stands 13th (\$7.03), Roxbury 15th (\$6.93), Dorchester 18th (\$6.68), Watertown 22d (\$6.10), Newton 53d (\$4.71); and lowest on the list (322d) is Mount Washington, a small town in Berkshire County, returning 98 children between 5 and 15, and raising by taxes \$150, allowing for each child \$1.53.

We append here the following table, as useful for reference and comparison.

Year.	Population.	No. of Public Schools.	School-children.	Appropriations.	Rank.
1837	1,337	4	337	\$ 1,000	
1838 - 39	"	4	338	1,200	
1839 - 40	"	4	323	1,200	
1840 - 41	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841 - 42	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842 - 43	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843 - 44	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844 - 45	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845 - 46	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846 - 47	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847 - 48	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848 - 49	"	9	496	2,700	11
1849 - 50	2,356	9	452	3,100	8
1850 - 51	"	9	402	3,500	3
1851 - 52	"	9	445	3,500	6
1852 - 53	"	9	455	3,500	
1853 - 54		9	*	3,900	

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\* To be ascertained in May.



## LYCEUM.

The Lectures before the Lyceum may be regarded as one of the means of popular instruction, and so, in some sense, an ally with the schools. They have been given at the Town Hall, weekly, as usual, with an intermission on the 23d of November. The Introductory Lecture was by Rev. Thomas Starr King, of Boston, on "Show and Substance"; and was followed by Lectures by J. V. C. Smith, M. D., of Boston, on his "Travels in Palestine"; by Walter Channing, M. D., of Boston, on "Reminiscences of Foreign Travels"; by Edward G. Parker, Esq., of Boston, on "Cultivating a Taste for Reading"; by Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr., of Boston, on "The Origin and History of the Mormons"; by Charles T. Jackson, M. D., of Boston, two lectures, on the evenings of the 21st and 28th of December, "Experiments in Chemistry"; by Rev. Fred-eric D. Huntington, of Boston, on "Work and Study"; by Rev. William Barrows, of Grantville, on "Decision of Character"; and by Professor Taverner, of Boston, "Readings from Shakspeare and other Authors." The concluding Lecture was by Edward F. Raymond, Esq., of Cambridge, on "The Life and Writings of Goldsmith."

## APPROPRIATION FOR THE COMING YEAR.

It will be seen that the Committee have retained the services of the Teacher of the High School, and of the Principal of the Harvard Grammar School, on a small increase of their late salaries. This, they felt, was justly due for the services which those teachers rendered. The former has received \$ 900; and the salary of the latter has been increased, for the last quarter, to the rate of \$ 700 a year.

That these teachers may be engaged for another year, and likewise that a small addition may be made to the wages of the female teachers, to meet the higher charge which is now made for board, in town, since those wages were established, the Committee recommend an increase



of the appropriation for the next year. They name \$3,900, as the sum likely to be required for teachers' wages and for fuel.

### NEW SCHOOL-HOUSE.

A school-house will be required for the accommodation of the Second Grammar School, and of Primary No. I., in place of the building destroyed by fire. Amidst the burden of duties which have devolved upon them with the close of the school year, the Committee have not been able, in the short period since the burning of the school-house, to bestow on the subject that attention which it demands. They cannot doubt, however, that the citizens will at once generously respond to the want of a suitable school-edifice for the north and east sections of the town. That the most desirable location for such a building may be ascertained, together with the size and cost, it is recommended that the subject be referred to a special committee, representing, in part, those sections of the town. And in the mean while, it is further recommended that the School Committee be authorized to prepare a room for the Second Grammar School in the same building now occupied by Primary No. I.

The Committee are aware that the erection of a new school-house will add somewhat to the present debt of the town. But it must be remembered that the occasion is very urgent; and that the cause for which we plead is one of the most important that can engage the citizens, — the cause of the public schools. Nor must we exaggerate the burden of our town indebtedness. The amount, as shown by the Treasurer's Report, is but about \$12,000. This debt has been several years accumulating. Let us be incited, rather, by the generous deeds of others. Our neighbors of West Cambridge, a town whose population is a little less than ours, and whose valuation is just about the same, have lately erected one elegant public building, of brick, at a cost of \$23,000, which was dedicated by appropriate services on the 17th of the last month. No more



able than we, they have incurred, in one year, a debt nearly double that which we have suffered to gather slowly through several years. The present debt of the city of Cambridge, of which both West Cambridge and our own town made a part until 1807, is about \$ 135,000, — while her valuation is only six times as great as ours.

With these suggestions and recommendations, the Committee respectfully submit their Report.

In behalf of the Committee,

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	} <i>Superintending</i>
JAMES M. WHITTEMORE,	
THEODORE MATCHETT (absent),	

*School Committee.*

*Brighton, March 7, 1853.*

*Brighton, March 7, 1853.*

In town meeting, read, accepted, and ordered to be printed.

Attest,

WM. WARREN,  
*Town Clerk.*

It was voted that the sum of \$ 3,900 be raised and appropriated for teachers' wages and fuel, the ensuing year.

Agreeably also to the above recommendation, a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Emery Willard, Jacob F. Taylor, Emerson Wheeler, Emery Rice, and F. A. Whitney, was chosen to dispose of the old lot of land, and procure a suitable site for a new school-house, and to report at a town meeting in April a plan for the same, with the estimated cost.

As these sheets are passing through the press, opportunity is given to record here, that the above-named Commit-



tee subsequently reported, that they had sold the old school-house lot at eight cents per foot, and had purchased another lot of half an acre, also situated on Harvard Street, for seven cents per foot; and they recommended to the town a plan for a brick school-house, drawn by Mr. M. Norton of Cambridge; and also that seven thousand dollars be appropriated to meet the expense of the house and land.

Their recommendation was adopted by the town, and the following gentlemen were chosen a building committee for carrying into effect the above recommendations: Messrs. Emery Willard, Emerson Wheeler, Green Smith, Timothy Munroe, and Patrick Colby.















SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE *\*4358.5*

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1853 - 54.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
METCALF AND COMPANY,  
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.  
1854.







SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

7675  
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# REPORT.

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THE Sixteenth Annual Report of the School Committee of Brighton for the year 1853 - 54 is herewith respectfully submitted.

The last Report of the Committee, presented March 7, 1853, closed with a representation to the town that the Second Grammar School, located on Harvard Street, was suspended, its school-house having been consumed by fire on the evening of the 3d of February previous. The Committee were instructed by the town to provide temporary accommodations for that school in a building on Cambridge Street, to which they had, a few weeks before, removed Primary School No. I. At the same meeting, also, a Committee was chosen to dispose of the lot of land on which the school-house had stood, to procure a suitable site for a new house, and to report, at a town-meeting in April, a plan for the same. They reported that they had disposed of the lot to Mr. Jacob F. Taylor for eight cents per foot, and had purchased another lot, of half an acre, also situated on Harvard Street, for seven cents per foot. They recommended to the town a plan of a brick school-house, drawn by Mr. M. Norton of Cambridge, and that seven thousand dollars be appropriated to meet the expense of the house and land.

This recommendation was adopted, and Messrs. Emery Willard, Emerson Wheeler, Green Smith, Timothy Munroe, and Patrick Colby were chosen a Building Committee for carrying it into effect.

The School Committee, agreeably to their orders, prepared



a temporary room in the above-named building, by erecting a partition, and fitting up the room with second-hand school desks and chairs, procured on very favorable terms. The expense incurred here was \$116.46, of which \$24.92 was for lumber; \$32.21 for carpenter's work; \$37.25 for school desks and chairs; \$7.50 for building chimney, and \$14.58 for small items. This building, erected a few years since by Daniel Treadwell, late Professor at Cambridge, for a cannon foundry, was occupied by the town for two schools, till the close of the second term, November 26; and the joint rent paid to Mr. Treadwell, and to Mr. Colby, lessee of the grounds adjoining, was \$60.

The Building Committee, in the mean time, were proceeding with their work. The school-house was completed in November, and was ready for the school furniture and furnaces.

At a town-meeting, December 5th, it was voted that the School Committee be authorized to furnish the building with suitable school furniture, and apparatus for warming. It belongs, accordingly, to the School Committee to report the expense incurred by their action on this vote. That no unnecessary charge should be made, they have placed school desks and chairs in the two school-rooms only to meet the present demand, reserving vacant spaces on the floor, agreeably to the architect's plan, for more as they are needed.

The following statement is accordingly presented:—

Paid to S. Wales, Jr., for Double Desks and Chairs for 56 pupils, at \$3 for each pupil, . . . . .	\$ 168.00
For Teacher's Table and Chair, and for Settees, . . . . .	30.50
G. & L. G. Smith, Materials and Work for Window Shades, . . . . .	5.25
Ide & Dutton, for Pelton's Outline Maps, . . . . .	25.00
Total for Furniture in 2d Grammar School,	<hr/> \$ 228.75
Paid to S. Wales, Jr., for Double Desks and Chairs for 48 pupils, at \$3 for each pupil, . . . . .	\$ 144.00
Amount carried forward, . . . . .	<hr/> \$ 372.75



Amount brought forward,	.	\$ 372.75
12 small Primary School Children's Chairs,	\$ 12.00	
Teacher's Table and Chair, and Settees,	25.00	
G. A. & L. G. Smith, Materials and Work for Window Shades,	5.25	
Ide & Dutton, Fowle's small Outline Maps,	6.00	
		<hr/>
Total for Furniture in Primary School No. I.		\$ 192.25
Paid to S. Wales, Jr., Carting two loads of Furniture,	4.00	
Paid Hiram Cushman, Carting Settees from Boston,	1.00	
Paid J. C. Wadleigh, Screwing down Desks and Chairs,	13.00	
Paid C. Brooks & Co. 9 doz. Clothes Hooks with Screws,	5.38	\$ 23.38
		<hr/>
Total for School Furniture for both Rooms, including Carting and Maps,		\$ 444.38
		<hr/>
Paid Moses Pond & Co. 2 No. 4 Culver Furnaces,	200.00	
Paid Moses Pond & Co. 427lbs. Iron Bars at 6c.,	25.62	
Paid Carting, \$ 3.50; Mason from Bos- ton, \$ 6.25,	9.75	
Paid 59 feet Pipe, 9, 10, 11, 15 inch,— Labor of measuring and putting up,	41.97	
Paid 24 sheets Covering Tin,	4.00	
Paid 53lbs. Funnel, at 12½c.,	6.63	
Paid Sundry Items, as by account,	3.82	
		<hr/>
		\$ 291.79
Paid Samuel Sanger for 4,500 Bricks, at \$ 8 per thousand,	36.00	
Paid Lining same, \$ 3.75; Sand, \$ 3.00,	6.75	
Paid Work, as by days rendered on account,	42.00	
Paid Charles White, for Iron,	1.13	
		<hr/>
Total for Setting Furnaces,		\$ 85.88
		<hr/>
Total for Furnaces and Setting,		\$ 377.67
		<hr/>
Amount expended by the School Committee,		\$ 822.05



The entire cost of the school-house, as presented on page 6 of the Treasurer's Report, is,	\$ 8,549.66
From this may be deducted amount received from sale of old lot, as by same Report, page 11,	552.64
Actual expenditure,	<hr/> \$ 7,997.02

In the Treasurer's Report, page 6, the bill of M. Pond & Co., for furnaces and fixtures, is entered at \$ 611.37, — while the School Committee here present their bill from the same firm for furnaces, &c., as \$ 291.79.

On reference to the Report of the Building Committee, presented to the town this day, it will be seen that the balance of the above account, \$ 319.58, was for ventilators and other charges previously incurred by them.

The Committee have done all that seemed absolutely necessary for the present accommodation of the two schools. As the Spring opens, a fence must be erected in front of the building on the street. And they recommend that the erection of a suitable fence be referred to the Board of Selectmen.

It does not belong to the School Committee to report further of the doings of the Building Committee. But they cannot forbear congratulating the town on the possession of this commodious, well-arranged, well-built, and beautiful edifice. We have at length one school-house of which we may be justly proud. All the important modern improvements have been adopted in its construction. Particular attention has been bestowed on the ventilation of the building, — a subject so important in its bearings on the health and comfort of pupils and teachers. A Professor at Cambridge, author of an approved treatise on ventilation, on examining the building, has pronounced it one of the most perfect within his knowledge. It is provided with two recitation rooms on each floor, opening into the main room, with a small apartment behind the teacher's platform for the teacher's convenience, and for a school library, and with separate clothes rooms for boys and girls on each floor. The building would be an honor to any town. Few in the State are superior to it.

True, the Building Committee exceeded somewhat the



appropriation, owing partly, as they report, to a rise in the cost of materials. That there should have seemed to them any necessity for doing this, they doubtless regret, as much as any of the citizens with whom they share the common burden of the town's indebtedness. Wise and honest men, devoting much of their time, through a whole season, to the town's work, with no compensation, not unskilled themselves in the value and cost of building materials, or in the matter of erecting buildings, they considered it, doubtless, for the interests of the town so to build. If the cost of this building has exceeded what, as citizens, we expected, may we not still feel that, as a town, we are very much richer than before because such an edifice stands in our limits? Every noble structure adds, unquestionably, to a town's real wealth far beyond the intrinsic worth of such a structure. There is not probably an estate in this town which the wise political economist will not say is really worth something more to-day because such a building has been erected. It is not true that estates contiguous to a valuable building are alone enhanced in value when that building rises, but that the town is lifted up somewhat as on a higher plane; its good name is confirmed; it is sought more for residences.

Each year the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education propounds certain questions in reference to the schools to be answered by the committee of every town. Among the questions just now proposed is the following: What is the value of all the school-houses in the town, including buildings and land? In April next, a reply to this question must be filed in the archives of the State. As there is little profit, or pleasure, in looking ever on the dark side of things, why not find solace in the reflection, that, for the credit of the town, there is now really something of substantial value to be returned? The aggregate value of our school edifices, without the one in question, would have been small. As it is, the town will hold no mean place in this regard among the towns of the Commonwealth.

One other consideration may not be out of place here. If the school-house in question has cost something more than was anticipated, the town has not, in past years, been called to expend much for these buildings. With the excep-



tion of the building lately lost on Harvard Street, which was erected in 1846, at an expense, including the land, of less than \$ 2,000, no school-house at all has been built for many years. Even the building occupied by the High School, and Primary School No. IV., was not erected by the town, but by a private corporation, and purchased by the town in 1847, for \$ 1,212.83, including the acre of ground, covered with shade-trees, which it occupies. It is known to your Committee that the building occupied by Primary School No. III. was erected at a cost of \$ 500 in 1825, —almost thirty years ago. Of the other Primary School-houses, some may have been built since, but not very recently.

We must not forget, in this connection, the geographical position of our town. The suburbs of the city are fast becoming identified in the most material interests with the metropolis of New England. The centre of Brighton is but three miles from her western boundary. The centre of the population of the State is fast crowding eastward towards Boston. From authentic statements, lately published, it is found that, in 1790, Weston, 13 miles from Boston, was the centre of the State's population. In 1810, Waltham, 10 miles from Boston, was the centre. In 1830, Watertown, 7 miles from Boston, was the centre. And in 1840, the centre of the State's population was on a line running through Winship's Gardens, here in our very midst, about 3 miles from the Boston line.

Your Committee pass from these considerations, to present, as required of them, a statement of the

### CONDITION OF THE SEVERAL SCHOOLS.

On account of diseases incident to children prevailing in town, they found fewer pupils in attendance, at the closing examinations, than last year. By the tables of attendance, presented in this Report, it will be seen that, although the number of school-children in town is larger than before, yet thirty-eight less than last year were actually present at the examinations just held. In some of the schools, as will be seen, the loss in attendance from this cause was very considerable.

The examinations have been held at the close of each



term ; — in July — August ; in November ; and in February — March.

# HIGH SCHOOL, ON ACADEMY HILL.

Teacher, Mr. John Ruggles, of Brighton.

## *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term,	. . . . .	50
Boys, 24 ; Girls, 26.		
Belonging to the school,	. . . . .	36
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 18.		
Present,	. . . . .	25
Boys, 11 ; Girls, 14.		

## *Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term,	. . . . .	41
Boys, 19 ; Girls, 22.		
Belonging to the school.	. . . . .	38
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 20.		
Present,	. . . . .	35
Boys, 17 ; Girls, 18.		

## *Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term,	. . . . .	43
Boys, 23 ; Girls, 20.		
Belonging to the school,	. . . . .	38
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 16.		
Present,	. . . . .	35
Boys, 19 ; Girls, 16.		

On the 16th of March, 1853, the Committee examined pupils from the Grammar Schools for admission to this. Nineteen candidates were presented. Written questions, as before, in Arithmetic, Grammar, and Geography were assigned, — to which written answers, prepared by the pupils without any conference among themselves, or with books, or teachers, were submitted to the Committee. Sixteen were admitted to the school.

The teacher has again labored through another year in the wide field of studies required in this school, wholly unassisted, because the narrow limits of the school-room will not admit of an assistant teacher. A larger and more suita-



ble building is very much needed. The Committee were pleased to find some girls in the class in Book-keeping, — a study which, though not usually pursued by females, may prove to them of the highest advantage hereafter. Several boys are engaged in studies preparatory for admission to college. Five students are now at Harvard University and at Yale College from this school; and some of the best female teachers whom we have employed in town have been instructed here, by its present Principal, who graduated, with high rank as a scholar, at Cambridge, in the class of 1836, and who has been employed here as teacher without interruption since the 3d day of May, 1841.

During the first term some of the pupils were very irregular in attendance. At the examination in July, as may be seen, seven boys and four girls were absent. The Committee bestowed due censure upon this irregularity, and report it here. The attendance was better in the second term; and, at the last examination, every girl was present, and three boys only were absent, — excused for illness on written application from their parents.

Should any pupils be particularly irregular at this school during the coming year, the Committee should at once return them to the Grammar Schools. Entire power is given to the Committee, by the Statutes of the Commonwealth, to place pupils in whatever grade of schools they think best, but not to exclude them from schools. No one should be suffered, while absent most of the time, to retain a nominal connection with a school of this character; which, maintained at considerable expense, is designed to furnish to all diligent and faithful pupils, alike among the poor and rich, the opportunity for a thorough English and classical education.

Classes have been examined during the year in the following studies, and have given very satisfactory evidence of their proficiency, and of the faithfulness of their teacher. English Grammar, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Book-keeping, History of the United States, General History, English Literature and Rhetoric, Physiology, Natural Philosophy and Astronomy, Penmanship, English Composition and Declamation; the Latin, Greek, and French languages.

The examination of pupils for admission to this school is assigned for Wednesday, the 8th instant, when its number will probably be made up to fifty.



## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

## HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Town Hall, on Washington Street.*

Principal, Mr. S. A. Poor, of Brighton.

Assistant, Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton.

*First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	119
Boys, 66 ; Girls, 53.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	94
Boys, 49 ; Girls, 45.	
Present, . . . . .	72
Boys, 40 ; Girls, 32.	

*Second Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	119
Boys, 66 ; Girls, 53.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	102
Boys, 59 ; Girls, 43.	
Present, . . . . .	84
Boys, 44 ; Girls, 40.	

*Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term, . . . .	128
Boys, 73 ; Girls, 55.	
Belonging to the school, . . . . .	113
Boys, 68 ; Girls, 45.	
Present, . . . . .	97
Boys, 59 ; Girls, 38.	

The studies pursued in this school are Reading, Spelling, Writing, Geography, History of the United States, Arithmetic, and English Grammar. Some specimens of Map Drawing and Composition have been exhibited, quite creditable to their authors. The same teachers have been employed as for several years past, and with equal success. The attainments of the pupils here are, of course, very various. They must be admitted on age rather than on qualification, since we have no grade of schools intermediate between the Grammar and Primary Schools in which to place



pupils advanced in years, but still backward in learning. As a consequence, we find here some very bright and some very dull scholars. Two cases of truancy were reported to the Committee at the November examination. The "Act concerning Truant Children and Absentees from School," passed in 1852, makes habitual truancy a penal offence; and "such as are convicted of it may be committed by a Justice of the Peace to some public institution of instruction or House of Reformation for such time as such Justice may determine, not exceeding one year." No other cases, in this very large school, have come to our knowledge. And, on the whole, the Committee had been very much pleased at each visit with its condition, with its good order, and with the interest of its teachers in the improvement and happiness of the pupils. The Principal first entered upon his duties in this school on the 28th of September, 1847, and the Assistant on the 17th of March, 1851, being taken from Primary School, No. II., of which she had been the successful teacher for almost four years.

The school-room, being the first floor of the Town Hall, quite spacious and provided with a commodious recitation room, has been still greatly improved by the application of ventilators to the building. This appendage, so important for the health and comfort of teachers and pupils, has been added by the Board of Selectmen, quite recently, at an expense of \$ 78.92.

School desks and chairs for twenty additional pupils have also been added to this school by your Committee, at an expense of \$ 39.08.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*On Harvard Street.*

Teachers, Mr. Lewis A. Grant, of Londonderry, Vt., and  
Mr. D. Fayette Ayer, of Haverhill.

### *First Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term,	.	.	.	.	45
Boys, 22; Girls, 23.					
Belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	31
Boys, 14; Girls, 17.					



Present,	26
Boys, 12 ; Girls, 14.	

*Second Examination.*

Omitted. — (School closed.)

*Third Examination.*

Number of pupils through the term,	49
Boys, 30 ; Girls, 19.	
Belonging to the school,	47
Boys, 28 ; Girls, 19.	
Present,	37
Boys, 21 ; Girls, 16.	

At the first examination, the Committee found very good order, and greater accuracy in the exercises than ever before. Some remarkably good specimens of map-drawing were exhibited by the older pupils. The teacher had proposed prizes to be awarded for the four best ; and the Committee were desired to make the selection. They found it rather difficult at last to choose between a few of about equal merit. In October last, Mr. Grant resigned the charge of this school, which he had taken in March, 1852. It was not again opened, owing to the unsuitableness of the room in which it was temporarily kept on Cambridge Street, until gathered in the new building, December 27th. Mr. Ayer having been examined and approved, entered upon his duties that day.

He has been thus far very successful, having had several years' experience in teaching. The studies pursued in this are the same as in the Harvard Grammar School. The examination just held was very satisfactory to the Committee and to the visitors present. We must award special credit for two books of penmanship, executed by two of the boys in German Text, Old English Letter, and other styles, which, for correctness and beauty, we have seldom seen equalled. The Committee cannot but express the hope that by the earnest coöperation of pupils and teacher and parents this school may sustain a rank for proficiency in study and for correctness in deportment worthy of the spacious and elegant building which the munificence of the town has furnished.



## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. I.

*On Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Sophia A. Bacon, of Harvard.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Patrick Colby.

*First Examination.*

Omitted. — (Teacher absent.)

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	30
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	30
“ present, . . . . .	25

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	39
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	38
“ present, . . . . .	37

As mentioned in the last Report, Miss Duncklee resigned the charge of this school at the closing examination in March, 1853, having taught here six years, successively. Miss Bacon, an experienced teacher, entered upon her duties on the 15th of March. The school was suspended from November 28th, until December 26th, when it was resumed in the new brick house. Subjected to great changes and inconveniencies while this building was in process of erection, it has not made its usual year's improvement. But at the last examination we found a very happy school with an interested teacher, having excellent gifts for the management of children.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. II.

*On Waverley Street.*

Teacher, Miss Caroline K. Nickerson, of Orleans.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Elias D. Bennett.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . .	78
“ belonging to the school, . . . . .	63
“ present, . . . . .	46



*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	70
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	69
“ present,	. . . . .	56

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	67
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	50
“ present,	. . . . .	41

The Committee could select certain pupils in this school, and here and there an exercise, at the examinations, superior to what they usually find in the Primary Schools. But, on the whole, its condition has not been as good as they expected. The writing-books have appeared badly. Credit was awarded on the Records for two pupils not absent one half-day, and for two absent but one half-day, during the term ending in November.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. III.

*Corner of Washington and Faneuil Streets.*

Teachers, Miss Catherine C. Dana, of Brighton, and Miss Luvia J. Celley, of Montpelier, Vt.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. Wm. R. Champney.

*First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	63
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	51
“ present,	. . . . .	38

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	46
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	41
“ present,	. . . . .	31

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	46
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	45
“ present,	. . . . .	33

Miss Dana resigned the charge of this school in July, having taught here very successfully three years. Some remarkable instances of punctual attendance were noticed.



One little boy had not been absent from school but once for three years; one, not once absent for a year and a half; a little girl, not once absent for a year; and five, not once absent during the term.

Miss Celley commenced with the second term, August 29th. She has had charge of it but six months. It sustains very well the good character it had acquired. At the November examination we took notice of five children who had not been once absent during the term.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. IV.

##### *On Academy Hill.*

Teachers, Miss Sarah J. Kingsley, Miss Sarah J. Stevens, and Miss Eliza Ann W. Rogers, all of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. David Collins.

##### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	.	72
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	.	62
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	.	36

##### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	.	68
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	.	59
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	.	52

##### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	.	.	.	.	.	.	60
“ belonging to the school,	.	.	.	.	.	.	52
“ present,	.	.	.	.	.	.	36

Miss Kingsley, who had taught this school the year previous, while it was the largest Primary School in town, began on the second year, and resigned its charge in April last. Miss Stevens commenced on the 11th of April; and Miss Rogers, in place of Miss Stevens, resigned, on the 13th of June. Notwithstanding these repeated changes, the Committee found the order of the school very good at the last examination, and the recitations for the most part correct. In conducting the examination, they were pleased with the readiness with which a class spelled words of five and six syllables. Sickness has made great inroads here, diminish-



ing the attendance and retarding the general improvement of the school.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. V.

*On Shepard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. M. Pierce.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	52
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	52
“ present,	. . . . .	44

#### *Second Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	52
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	51
“ present,	. . . . .	46

#### *Third Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	51
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	51
“ present,	. . . . .	34

Seventeen pupils were absent at the last examination, and most of them for sickness. The Committee have, for so many years, found good recitations and good order here, as now to expect them as matters of course. They have not been disappointed, in this respect, the past year. The teacher has been engaged here, with great faithfulness, almost six years. The writing-books have not appeared quite as well as the other exercises of the school. Of course the services of a competent and devoted teacher, uninterrupted for such a course of years, must show in the general proficiency of the school.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. VI.

*On Allston Street, near Beacon.*

Teacher, Miss Sarah M. English, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Abel Meriam.

#### *First Examination.*

Number through the term,	. . . . .	41
“ belonging to the school,	. . . . .	35



Number present, . . . . . 21

*Second Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . . 35

“ belonging to the school, . . . . . 33

“ present, . . . . . 30

*Third Examination.*

Number through the term, . . . . . 30

“ belonging to the school, . . . . . 28

“ present, . . . . . 20

The last Report did not present a favorable view of this school, on account of the frequent change of its teachers. It has been kept the past year by Miss English, who commenced three weeks before the close of the year previous. The minutes of the Committee afford a very good account of it now. At the November examination, three little girls were reported to us not once absent during the term. The school has always been small. The order and deportment of the pupils has been highly satisfactory, and their improvement in their studies has been manifest.

## APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statement is presented of the use made by the Committee of the funds placed in their hands for teachers' wages and for fuel.

Town's portion of the State School Fund, . . . \$ 107.09

Amount appropriated by the town, . . . 3,900.00

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\$ 4,007.09

Paid for teachers' wages :—

John Ruggles, Principal of the High  
School, . . . . . \$ 1,000.00

S. A. Poor, Principal of the Harvard  
Grammar School, . . . . . 700.00

Anna J. George, Assistant of the Har-  
vard Grammar School, . . . . . 275.00

Lewis A. Grant, Teacher of the Sec-  
ond Grammar School, part of the  
year, . . . . . 375.00

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Amount carried forward, \$ 2,350.50



Amount brought forward, . . .	\$ 2,350.00	
D. Fayette Ayer, Teacher of the Second Grammar School, part of the year, . . .	115.33	
Sophia A. Bacon, Teacher of Primary No. I., 39 weeks, at \$ 4.50, . . .	175.50	
Caroline K. Nickerson, Teacher of Primary No. II., 43 weeks, at \$ 4.50, . . .	193.50	
Catherine C. Dana, Teacher of Primary No. III., 18 weeks, at \$ 4.50, . . .	81.00	
Luvia J. Celley, Teacher of Primary No. III., 25 weeks, at \$ 4.50, . . .	112.50	
Sarah J. Kingsley, Teacher of Primary No. IV., 4 weeks, at \$ 4.50, . . .	18.00	
Sarah J. Stevens, Teacher of Primary No. IV., 6 weeks, at \$ 4.50, . . .	27.00	
Eliza A. W. Rogers, Teacher of Primary No. IV., 33 weeks, at \$ 4.50, . . .	148.50	
Sarah E. Waugh, Teacher of Primary No. V., 44 weeks, at \$ 4.50, . . .	198.00	
Sarah M. English, Teacher of Primary No. VI., 44 weeks, at \$ 4.50, . . .	198.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 3,617.38
Paid for fuel :—		
Primary No. I, including Second Grammar School, 18,000 lbs. coal, . . .	\$ 73.75	
Charcoal and bark for do., . . .	7.45	
	<hr/>	\$ 81.20
Primary No. II., 5,000 lbs. coal, . . .	\$ 19.75	
Charcoal and bark for do., . . .	10.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 29.75
Primary No. III., 4,000 lbs. coal, . . .	\$ 15.00	
Charcoal for do., . . .	2.92	
	<hr/>	\$ 17.92
Primary No. IV., including the High School, 15,400 lbs. coal, . . .	\$ 55.98	
Charcoal for do., . . .	9.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 64.98
Primary No. V., 6,000 lbs. coal, . . .	\$ 22.50	
Charcoal for do., . . .	5.33	
	<hr/>	\$ 27.83
Amount carried forward, . . .		\$ 221.68



Amount brought forward, . . . . .	\$ 221.68
Primary No VI., 4,000 lbs. coal, . . . . .	\$ 18.50
Bark for Primary No. VI., . . . . .	4.25
	<hr/>
	\$ 22.75
Harvard Grammar School, including all fuel in the Town Hall during the year, 23,850 lbs. coal, . . . . .	\$ 93.45
Charcoal for do., . . . . .	22.90
	<hr/>
	\$ 116.35
Total for fuel, . . . . .	\$ 360.78
“ wages, . . . . .	3,617.38
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,978.16
Appropriation, . . . . .	\$ 4,007.09
Expenditures, . . . . .	3,978.16
	<hr/>
Balance, . . . . .	\$ 28.93

The following table shows what amount has been expended each year since 1840-41, for teachers' wages and for fuel; the corresponding balance over or under the year's appropriation, increased by the town's portion of the State School Fund, and the compensation rendered to the Prudential and General School Committee.

Year.	Teachers' Wages and Fuel.	Balance over or under appropriation.	Compensation to Prudential Committee.	Do. to Gen- eral Com- mittee.
1840-41	\$ 1,040.08	\$ 40.08 over	. .	\$ 79
1841-42	1,954.83	45.17 under	. .	101
1842-43	1,958.94	41.06 “	\$ 40	58
1843-44	1,994.65	5.35 “	40	85
1844-45	1,905.28	94.72 “	40	75
1845-46	1,730.05	270.95 “	40	75
1846-47	2,058.09	241.91 “	60	75
1847-48	2,374.17	.68 over	60	80
1848-49	2,731.66	40.31 under	60	74
1849-50	3,176.89	2.47 “	60	92.50
1850-51	3,244.14	348.67 “	60	120
1851-52	3,517.63	29.12 “	60	90
1852-53	3,595.18	3.83 “	60	70
1853-54	3,978.16	28.93 “	60	80



## SCHOOL-CHILDREN AND ATTENDANCE.

The number of children in town, between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the 1st day of May last, according to law, was 475; — males 247, females 228; being an increase of twenty over the number of the previous year. Some under five, and over fifteen, years of age attend school, of course. But these ages are assumed for convenience by the Massachusetts Board of Education in their yearly calculations, and so certified to their Secretary, annually, by the School Committee of each town. The following tables show the numbers attending through the last term on each school, and the numbers belonging and present in each at the closing examinations, for the last two years.

## 1852 - 53.

455 children between five and fifteen.

	No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.
H. S.	43	33	31
H. G. S.	113	98	83
2d G. S.	51	45	40
No. I.	46	45	38
" II.	63	56	40
" III.	59	56	43
" IV.	78	70	59
" V.	46	46	44
" VI.	34	31	30
	<u>533</u>	<u>480</u>	<u>408</u>

## 1853 - 54.

475 children between five and fifteen.

	No. in Term.	Belonging.	Present.
H. S.	43	38	35
H. G. S.	128	113	97
2d G. S.	49	49	37
No. I.	39	38	37
" II.	67	50	41
" III.	46	45	33
" IV.	60	52	36
" V.	51	51	34
" VI.	30	28	20
	<u>513</u>	<u>464</u>	<u>370</u>

The decrease shown in the second table, while the number of school-children in town has increased, must be charged to the prevalent illness of children during the winter.

According to the last Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, Brighton stands 39th among the 328 towns of the State in regard to the average attendance of children on the public schools. No place nearer to us than Wayland is classed so high in his tables, and that is 42d. Somerville is 130th; Watertown, 133d; Charlestown, 139th; Roxbury, 150th; Cambridge, 154th; Boston, 155th; Waltham, 184th; Brookline, 190th; Newton, 222d; Dorchester, 239th; and Stoneham, 324th, the lowest on the list of towns which have made returns, returning 388 children between five and fifteen, and an average attendance on the public schools of only 182.



## TOWN'S RANK AS TO ITS APPROPRIATION.

By the tables appended to the Secretary's last report, we find that Brighton stands 11th among the towns of the State as to the amount which its appropriation for teachers' wages and for fuel would divide to each child between the ages of five and fifteen. Her appropriation, \$ 3,500, the last which has been returned to him, divided among 455 children, would allow for each child \$ 7.69. Brookline stands, again, at the head of the list; her appropriation of \$ 4,100 giving to each child, of 392, \$ 10.45. Boston stands 7th; her appropriation allowing to each child \$ 7.69. Roxbury stands 8th, \$ 7.85; Cambridge 16th, \$ 6.93; Dorchester 17th, \$ 6.81; Watertown 24th, \$ 6.08; Newton 31st, \$ 5.59; and lowest on the list of all that have made returns, 323d, Dennis, on Cape Cod, returning 855 children between five and fifteen, and raising by taxes \$ 1,300, allowing for each child \$ 1.52.

By the following table it will be seen that the population of our town has probably doubled, and the number of public schools more than doubled, since 1837, when the Board of Education was established: —

Year.	Population.	No. of Public Schools.	School-Children.	Appropriation.	Rank.
1837	1,337	4	337	1,000	
1838 - 39	"	4	338	1,200	
1839 - 40	"	4	323	1,200	
1840 - 41	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841 - 42	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842 - 43	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843 - 44	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844 - 45	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845 - 46	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846 - 47	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847 - 48	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848 - 49	"	9	496	2,700	11
1849 - 50	2,356	9	452	3,100	8
1850 - 51	"	9	402	3,500	3
1851 - 52	"	9	445	3,500	6
1852 - 53	"	9	455	3,500	11
1853 - 54	"	9	475	3,900	
1854 - 55	"	9	*		

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\* To be ascertained in May.



## SCHOOL TERMS, VACATIONS, AND EXAMINATIONS.

The school year commences with this day, the 1st Monday of March, and extends to the 1st Monday of March, 1855. It is divided into three school terms. During the last week of each term the Committee will visit and examine every school. There are eight weeks of vacation, besides several single days. The school year begins with a vacation of one week. The first term commences on the 2d Monday of March (13th day), and extends to the 5th Monday of July (31st day), comprising twenty weeks. A vacation of four weeks follows. The second term commences on the 4th Monday of August (28th day), and extends to the 4th Monday of November (27th day), comprising thirteen weeks. A vacation of one week follows. The third term commences on the 1st Monday of December (4th day), and extends to the 1st Monday of March, 1855 (5th day), comprising thirteen weeks.

A recess of two weeks occurs in the long term, beginning with the 5th Monday of May (29th day), and extending to the 2d Monday of June (12th day). This recess makes up the eight weeks of vacation. It is not considered as ending a term. When the recess begins, the School Registers are not to be closed up, as they are before each vacation.

The quarter salaries of the teachers are payable on the 6th day of June, September, December, and 5th day of March, 1855.

The weekly compensation of teachers is to be paid at the close of each school term, — on the last Saturday of July and November, and on the first Saturday of March, 1855.

## LYCEUM.

The usual course of Lectures before the Lyceum was commenced Tuesday evening, November 29th, at the Town Hall, and was continued weekly, with intermissions on the 27th of December and 20th of January.

The Introductory Lecture was by Hon. Anson Burlingame of Cambridge, on "The Philosophy and Illustration



of Progress"; and was followed by Lectures by Richard H. Dana, Esq., of Boston, on "Edmund Burke"; Rev. Thomas D. Anderson, D.D., of Roxbury, on "Reverence under Republican Institutions"; by Rev. R. C. Waterston, of Boston, on "Scotland"; by Rev. James W. Thompson, D.D., of Salem, on "John Adams"; by Timothy Bigelow, Esq., of Boston, on "The Ottoman Empire"; by Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr., of Boston, on "Sectional Differences and Sectional Prejudices"; by Henry W. Muzzey, Esq., of Cambridge, on "The Poetry of Life"; by James Dutton Russell, Esq., of Brighton, on "Australia"; by Rev. Thos. S. King, of Boston, on "The Laws of Disorder."

#### APPROPRIATION FOR THE COMING YEAR.

This must depend somewhat upon the price of fuel. With the present prices, the appropriation last granted (\$ 3,900) will not be sufficient. A small balance, indeed, remains now unexpended. But two schools, it must be remembered, were suspended last year; one for one month, and one for two months. One furnace more is to be fed through the coming year than last year. The Committee recommend that the sum of \$ 4,000 dollars be raised and appropriated for teachers' wages and for fuel.

Respectfully submitted,

In behalf of the Committee,

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	} <i>Superintending School</i>
JAMES M. WHITTEMORE,	
(One vacancy.)	
} <i>Committee.</i>	
<i>Brighton, March 6, 1854.</i>	

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*Brighton, March 6, 1854.*

In Town Meeting, read, accepted, and ordered to be printed.

Attest,

WM. WARREN,  
*Town Clerk.*



## A P P E N D I X .

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THE examination of pupils of the Grammar Schools for admission to the High School took place, as announced on page 10, on the 8th instant, at the Harvard Grammar School room.

The following questions were given to each pupil by the Committee. They were required, with no conference among themselves, or with books, or with the Committee, to write answers to the several questions on sheets of paper inscribed with their names.

### *Questions in Arithmetic.*

1. Write in figures seventeen thousand and ten, and nineteen tenths.
  2. Subtract 6.049 from 320.02.
  3. Multiply six and four thousandths by nine hundredths.
  4. Divide 423.3 by 3.20.
  5. Multiply  $\frac{1}{2}\frac{4}{5}$  by 8.
  6. Multiply  $\frac{1}{3}\frac{6}{5}$  by  $\frac{4}{10}$ .
  7. Divide  $8\frac{3}{5}$  by 4.
  8. At 22 cents per gallon, what will 94 hogsheads cost, wine measure?
  9. Divide  $\frac{4}{8}\frac{1}{4}$  by  $\frac{2}{3}\frac{1}{2}$ .
  10. Add  $\frac{3}{9}$  of a pound to  $\frac{4}{8}$  of a shilling.
  11. Reduce 5 and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to a single fraction.
  12. Reduce .84 to a vulgar fraction.
  13. Change  $\frac{5}{8}$  to a decimal.
  14. Reduce 17 rods, long measure, to inches.
  15. If a man earn \$ 19 in 7 days, when will he earn \$ 25?
  16. If 720 lbs. of sugar cost £ 27, what is it per pound?
- 

### *Questions in Grammar.*

1. Name the parts of speech.
2. Decline the pronoun He.
3. Write the plural of Boy, Duty, Sheep, Hero, Who, Goose, Loaf, Knife.



4. Write the possessive case of She, Child, Who.
5. Compare *lovely, bad, far, much, next, better*.
6. Write the personal pronouns.
7. Correct these sentences : " He done well." " She sung excellent well." " Their are many men which cannot write there names." " He has wrote all his words correct." " I begun to study early." " The bell was rang." " I run all the way and come to school in season and recited awl my lessons perfect."
8. Parse each word in this sentence : " They may have been worthy of your highest praise."

*Questions in Geography.*

1. What is meant by the latitude of a place ?
2. What large island N. E. of Nova Scotia ?
3. To whom does this island belong ?
4. What is the capital of Vermont ? Where is it ? On what ?
5. What is the largest fresh-water lake in the world ?
6. Where is Cincinnati ? On what ?
7. What strait separates North America from Asia ?
8. Bound the United States.
9. Mountains in South America ?
10. Largest river in South America ?
11. Bound Europe.
12. Largest division of Europe ?
13. Bound Spain. Its capital ?
14. Productions of Spain and Portugal ?
15. Gulf east of Italy ?
16. What separates Asia from Europe ?
17. Mountains in interior of Asia ?
18. Of what country is Vienna the capital ? And where is Amsterdam ?
19. Into what does the river Volga flow ?
20. Where is Sicily ?

In the following Table, the first column denotes the pupils examined, — the next three columns, the errors in each study. The lowest number of errors was 5, the highest was 45. The Committee adding together the two and taking half the sum, assumed 25 as the standard of exclusion. Each pupil, who had less than 25 errors was admitted. It will be seen that some of the questions involve more than one reply, — particularly questions 3, 5, 7, 8, in Grammar. Thus, though only 44 questions in all were numbered,



the replies afforded opportunity for some 70 or 80 errors. Yet, 45 was the largest number of errors returned. Errors in spelling and in punctuation were not counted.

TABLE OF ERRORS.

	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.	Total.
1	1	3	1	5
2	2	3	1	6
3	3	2	2	7
4	2	1	4	7
5	2	3	2	7
6	4	2	2	8
7	4	4	0	8
8	6	2	1	9
9	1	4	4	9
10	4	7	3	14
11	6	6	3	15
12	4	6	7	17
13	4	6	8	18
14	7	6	6	19
15	7	7	6	20
16	5	8	7	20
17	11	9	2	22
18	10	7	7	24
19	13	22	9	44
20	12	21	12	45







57  
EIGHTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF 13126

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE 74358.5

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1855-56.



BOSTON:

PRINTED BY HUGH H. TUTTLE,

21 School Street.

1856.



well. The errors in spelling in the second class were rather too numerous. The singing at this examination was uncommonly sweet. The writing books had been neglected for several weeks.

There is one lad in this school who has not been absent for two years; and another who has been neither absent, nor tardy, nor dismissed, for one year.

The progress of the scholars for the year has been very gratifying.

#### PRIMARY No. II.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Robert Fletcher.

Miss Martha A. Bullard, who taught this school a part of the last year, resigned on the 15th of April. On the 7th of May Miss Mary J. Kimball, of Topsfield, was qualified as teacher, and entered the school.

#### *First Examination, July 26.*

The improvement of this school, since Miss Kimball took charge of it, has been very great.

#### *Second Examination, November 21.*

This school was crowded during the term; the number of scholars being eightythree. Notwithstanding the number of scholars, and the former anarchy of the school, the progress was very evident. The reading we marked "very good, particularly in distinctness, and in the thorough understanding on the part of the scholars of what they read."

#### *Third Examination, February 23.*

The report of the second examination will answer very well for the third. It is necessary only to add, that the writing books were not all of them so neat as it is desirable to have them.

No. II. is yet behind some of the other Primary Schools; but considering the condition of the school when Miss Kimball entered it, a great deal of credit must be accorded to the teacher.



## PRIMARY No. III.

Prudential Committee, Mr. William R. Champney.

*First Examination, July 26.*

This school, under the charge of Miss Luvia J. Celley, held its session, after the burning of the school-house, in a house belonging to Mr. Charles Hardy. The room was small, and inconvenient. The number of scholars diminished somewhat. The school, however, has done as much as could be expected under the circumstances.

*Second Examination, November 20.*

The writing books were generally neat, and some of them very creditable indeed. The classes in geography answering readily. A commendable improvement throughout the school was apparent; owing in part to the airy, pleasant and convenient new school-house, which was entered in the early part of the term.

*Third Examination, February 25.*

Miss Celley having resigned, Miss Ellen Harris, of this town, was qualified as teacher, and entered the school December 3d. The reading was good. The classes in geography answered with commendable promptness. The progress of one or two boys in arithmetic is specially worthy of remark. Miss Harris has been so successful her first term, that we shall expect her to be among the foremost of our teachers after a little more experience.

## PRIMARY No. IV.

Prudential Committee, — — —.

*First Examination, November 26.*

Miss Harriet M. Blake, of West Cambridge, was qualified as teacher at the beginning of this school-year. The first class in reading did themselves and their teacher credit in emphasis and inflection. The order of the school was as good, and the progress of the school as great, as could be expected where so many (100) scholars were huddled in so small a room, under one teacher.



*Second Examination, November 20.*

The report of the first examination will answer for the second, for the most part. This term Miss Blake was assisted by her sister, Miss S. P. Blake; but the want of room defeated pretty much the object for which an assistant was appointed.

*Third Examination, February 25.*

Miss Catharine Stearns was appointed in place of Miss Blake resigned. Miss Stearns had taught the school before, when it was much smaller, with a good degree of success; and her return was in accordance with the wishes of the people in the district. The order of the school was very good indeed, and a general improvement was observed. There are a few good scholars in this school. The most of the children, however, are backward. So little ground was gone over in reading and spelling, and so very simple were the words the first class had learned to spell, that the examination in this important branch was of little interest. In judging of this school it must always be remembered how large it is.

## PRIMARY NO. V.

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. M. Pierce.

*First Examination, July 26.*

Miss Waugh did her usual work this term.

*Second Examination, November 19.*

We find in our note book the following memorandum:—  
 "Arithmetic very good *indeed*; writing books creditable; geography good. In reading more attention should be paid to inflection; otherwise reading and spelling *very good*."

*Third Examination, February 26.*

Writing books not worthy of praise or censure. The scholars did not define words so readily as is desirable. Classes in reading, arithmetic and geography were worthy of very great commendation.

This school, of which Miss Sarah E. Waugh has been the



faithful teacher so long, is inferior to some of the other schools of the same grade in some little things, but, all in all, must be considered as taking the lead of the Primaries in this town.

#### PRIMARY NO. VI.

Prudential Committee, Mr. A. Meriam.

##### *First Examination, July 26.*

The school was pleasant, and had made very fair progress.

##### *Second Examination, November 19.*

The writing books were neat. The classes in geography, arithmetic, and Child's philosophy were quite prompt in answering the questions put to them by the teacher. The reading was in some respects good, in others quite faulty.

##### *Third Examination, February 26.*

The report of the second examination will answer very well for the third.

Miss Sarah M. English, who has taught this school for several years, is a conscientious and diligent instructor. The Committee, however, would be glad to report *greater progress* of the scholars.

#### GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

##### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Mr. S. A. Poor, Principal. Miss Anna J. George, Assistant.

##### *First Examination, July 27.*

The school appeared very well in the departments of both teachers. There is a good deal of *raw material* in this school, requiring patience and perseverance to work it into shape. The discipline of the school is very creditable to both teachers.

##### *Second Examination, November 22.*

Our note book says, "Arithmetic very good; general improvement, particularly in reading."



*Third Examination, Morning and Afternoon, February 28.*

There is nothing showy about this school; the elements of which it is composed forbid that there should be. The studies are plain grammar, arithmetic, geography, reading, spelling, writing and a little history. Though a whole day was devoted to this school, we were able to examine only the first and second classes in the different branches. Many of the scholars did very well indeed, and some of them otherwise. It was quite evident that the teachers had been diligently at work. There are a few scholars in this school fitted to enter the High School.

The Assistant in the Harvard Grammar School is excelled by none of our teachers in the thoroughness and easy accuracy of her instructions. We noticed particularly a great carefulness in the pronunciation of geographical names.

Harvard Grammar School is slowly getting over the evil effects of the old system of admitting scholars by age. In two or three years from this time, we shall expect to see quite another school.

One of the wants of this school is a Library, consisting of some popular Encyclopedia, a Pronouncing Gazetteer, &c.; and should any attempt be made to procure such a library, we hope the parents of the children, who are to reap the advantage, will contribute liberally to the object.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL NO. II.

Mr. John D. Marston, Principal.

*First Examination, July 27.*

This school made considerable improvement the first term. The teacher begun well. The examination evinced zeal on the part of both teacher and scholars.

*Second Examination, November 22.*

The improvement during the second term was more marked than during the first term. The recitations in geography and grammar were particularly interesting. Mr. Marston's method of teaching grammar is very thorough. The writing



books were generally neat, but the penmanship was not so good as it might have been. Specimens of map drawing were presented worthy of special commendation.

*Third Examination, February 27.*

The recitations in arithmetic of the third, fourth and fifth class were very fair. The second class did well. The examination of the first class was thorough, and well sustained throughout. The scholars belonging to the class in algebra, did themselves credit. The reading classes did very well. There are a few very excellent readers in this school. A class in descriptive geography was listened to with interest. The writing books were some of them very creditable, others, and the greater proportion of them, not so much so. Map drawings were presented of great accuracy, indicating a good deal of patience and skill on the part of both instructor and scholars.

This school is a very pleasant one indeed. Some of the scholars are quite far advanced ; indeed, a grammar school in the grade that ours occupy, is hardly the place for them. We thought that we discovered, at all the examinations, a little want of drilling in the lower classes.

Mr. Marston came to this school with eleven years' experience, and your Committee hope he will long remain in his present position.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Principals, Mr. John Ruggles, Mr. Bartholémew Wood, Mr. George W. Dow, Mr. Guilford S. Newcomb.

Mr. John Ruggles taught this school for four weeks, at the beginning of the school-year, when contrary to the earnest remonstrance of your Committee he resigned his place here, after a service of thirteen years, and accepted a call to become principal of the High School in Taunton. Mr. Ruggle's resignation was so abrupt, that a recess of a few weeks necessarily ensued. Mr. Bartholémew Wood, of Newton, was finally elected to his place, who resigned at the close of the summer term. Mr. George W. Dow was next procured,



who gave up the school at the end of the term. Hearing of the excellent reputation Mr. G. S. Newcomb, of New Bedford sustained, both as a man and as a teacher, your Committee went to New Bedford, made thorough inquiries respecting Mr. Newcomb, and engaged him to enter the school.

*First Examination, July 28.*

Your Committee found that the school had been broken up a great deal during the summer, and was unable to make much pretension to progress.

*Second Examination, November 22.*

The school revived a good deal during the second term, and considerable progress was made in the various studies.

*Third Examination, February 29.*

The second class in arithmetic made a very fair recitation. The first class did admirably well. The excellence of the recitation was *the evident understanding on the part of the scholars*, of the processes necessary for the solution of the problems. The classes in Greek, Latin, French and Physiology made very good recitations. The recitations in algebra and geometry were very prompt and correct. The school formed a single class in geography, and interested the visitors by answering questions not often found in the books.

The scholars in the High School are not, perhaps so far advanced as we might desire. But your Committee are ready to affirm, that, in no period of their acquaintance with the school, has the improvement of the scholars been more marked, than during the last eleven weeks of the School-year. Mr. Newcomb is thoroughly acquainted with his profession, and what is of quite as much importance, has the enthusiasm of a teacher. Under his charge we predict great progress in the school.

There is, however, need of a reorganization of the school, mainly, with reference to classifying the scholars. It is proposed, that a regular course of study be laid down, through which all the scholars shall pass who enter, and remain in the



school. We are not prepared to say at present just what that course should be,—but it should be something as follows :—

## REGULATIONS AND ORDER OF STUDY FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Scholars may be admitted to this school annually, and may remain members of it three years, during which time they will be required to attend to the following

### COURSE OF STUDY.

**FIRST YEAR.** Reading, Spelling, English Grammar, Geography, History of the United States, Physiology, Arithmetic, and Algebra.

**SECOND YEAR.** Reading, Spelling, English Grammar, General History, Book Keeping, Algebra, Natural Philosophy.

**THIRD YEAR.** Reading and Parsing exercises in Milton's Paradise Lost, Arithmetic and Algebra reviewed ; Geometry, Astronomy, Chemistry, and Surveying.

Latin, Greek and French shall be optional studies during the second and third years.

Scholars preparing for College, may, during the whole course, attend to the studies required for admission to College, engaging in such other exercises as their time will allow.

There will be general exercises in Composition and Declamation, and a weekly lesson in Moral Science, during the whole course.

Those admitted to the school at each annual examination, shall constitute a new class, thus making three classes constantly in school. The present members of the school are to be examined and classified, according to their present attainments. Scholars may be advanced from one class to another, not according to the time they have been in the school, but upon examination conducted by the Principal, or the Committee.

If a scholar shall enter the school at any time *after* the beginning of the School-year, he shall be examined in the studies which the class he enters has already attended to, as well as in the preparatory studies.



Each scholar will be required to attend to all the studies of his class, unless excused by the Committee.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

More attention should be paid to accuracy in pronunciation on the part of the teachers generally.

There should be a reform with some of the teachers in the methods used in teaching classes to spell. We refer particularly to the *mouthings*, and the barbarous habit of *mispronouncing* words in order to make them easier to the scholar—For example: “*con-n-n*”—“*tempt-t-t*”—“*i-i-i*”—“*ble-e-e*”—instead of “*contemptible*.”

Much more attention should be paid to the intellectual arithmetic—scholars should not be encouraged to enter upon written arithmetic, till they can master Colburn;—or if it is deemed better to allow written arithmetic, the intellectual should not be abandoned.

Great attention should be given to *reviews*. Nothing pays better than a thorough weekly, monthly and quarterly review of the ground which has been traversed.

More attention should be paid to penmanship in all the schools.

Parents and guardians are requested to consider, whether anything is to be gained by hurrying their children from the Primaries to the Grammar Schools, and from the Grammar to the High School.

Our schools are graded, but the Committee have not been able to adhere strictly to the rules by which they are graded. For example: They have been obliged, in order to distribute the children where there are accommodations for them, to keep in some of the *smaller* Primaries, those who were tolerably well qualified to enter the Grammar Schools; while from the *larger* Primaries, they have been obliged to take some who were not so well qualified for the next higher school. Some scholars, also, from the larger Grammar School have been sent to the High School, while others better prepared have been kept in the smaller Grammar School. There has been no help for this course of procedure, and there will be none,



only as the accommodations for scholars are increased. The children who seem to have been kept back, however, are not the losers thereby; for it is, at least, as well to be in a small school of a lower grade with a good teacher, as it is to be in a crowded school of a higher grade.

### SCHOOL-HOUSES.

No II. needs more room. The school is at present greatly incommoded by the incapacity of the School-house.

A neat, airy, convenient and substantial School-house has been erected the past year in District No. III. The house is 42 feet by 32 feet, and 14 feet stud. The cost of the building, with the cellar, is	\$2,323 54
Furniture,	160 61
	<hr/>
	\$2,484 15

During the year several town meetings have been held with reference to a School-house for District No. IV., and for a High School-house; and finally \$6.100 00 were appropriated for a building that should furnish both the school-rooms desired.

The School-house in District No. V., needs to be enlarged.

### SCHOOL CHILDREN, AND POPULATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

The number of School Children between five and fifteen years of age, on the first day of May last, was found to be 612; the number between five and sixteen years of age, was 665.

It may be interesting to citizens to know the population of the several School Districts, and the relative number of Americans and foreigners.

<i>May 1st 1855.</i>	<i>American.</i>	<i>Foreigners.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
District No. 1,	321	126	447
District No. 2,	265	247	512
District No. 3,	275	185	460
District No. 4,	291	295	586
District No. 5,	385	128	513
District No. 6,	233	40	273
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1770	1021	2791



In June last the population of the town, according to the census taken at that time, was 2895. By the same census we learn (by subtracting the "foreign born" from the "number of foreigners") that the number of children of foreigners was 230. Allowing that there are 30 of these children too young to be reckoned as school children and we estimate, that 200 or one-third of the school children in the town are children of foreigners. This estimate is not absolutely accurate, as we reckon the number of school children from the census of May, and the number of children of foreigners from the census of June. There are also some children "foreign born." Without doubt, however, the estimate is very near the truth.

## APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

### PAID FOR TEACHERS' WAGES.

HIGH SCHOOL,	J. Ruggles,	Teacher,	4 weeks,	\$90 00
	B. Wood,	Do.	15 do.	341 00
	G. W. Dow,	Do.	13 do.	295 45
	G. S. Newcomb,	Do.	11 do.	250 00
H. G. SCHOOL,	S. A. Poor,	Do.		700 00
	A. J. George,	Do.		275 00
S. G. SCHOOL,	J. D. Marston,	Do.		600 00
DIST. No. 1,	S. A. Bacon,	Do.	43 weeks,	193 50
Do. No. 2,	M. A. Bullard,	Do.	5 do.	22 50
	M. J. Kimball,	Do.	12 do.	54 00
	Do. Do.	Do.	13 do.	\$5 50 71 50
	Do. Do.	Do.	13 do.	71 50
Do. No. 3,	L. J. Celley,	Do.	30 do.	135 00
	E. Harris,	Do.	13 do.	58 50
Do. No. 4,	H. M. Blake,	Do.	30 do.	125 00
	S. P. Blake, A.	Do.	8 do.	\$3 00 24 00
	C. Stearns,	Do.	13 do.	\$5 50 71 40
Do. No. 5,	S. E. Waugh,	Do.	44 do.	198 00
Do. No. 6,	S. M. English,	Do.	44 do.	198 00

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\$3,785 35

### PAID FOR FUEL.

No. 1, and Second Grammar School,	-	-	\$185 84
No. 2,	-	-	21 08
No. 3,	-	-	25 00
No. 4, and High School,	-	-	96 50
No. 5,	-	-	26 45
No. 6,	-	-	22 25
Harvard Grammar School and Town Hall,	-	-	99 48

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\$474 58



Teachers' Wages, - - - - -	\$3,785 35
Fuel, - - - - -	474 58
	<hr/>
	\$4259 93

Amount appropriated by the Town,	\$4,200 00
Town's portion of State School Fund,	111 00
	<hr/>
	\$4,311 00
Expenditures,	4,259 93
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$51 07

Your Committee recommend an appropriation the coming year of \$4,750

Before closing the Report your Committee would bring to the notice of the citizens the provision of the State for indigent scholars who desire to procure a liberal education :—

“By the first Section of the Act, entitled “An Act establishing State Scholarships,” approved April 27, 1852, chapter 193, fortyeight State Scholarships are established “to aid in educating and training young men for the office of principal Teacher in the High Schools of the Commonwealth.”

By the second Section it is enacted, that in the year 1854, again in the year 1861, and every ten years thereafter, the Commonwealth shall be divided by the Board of Education into forty Sections, and these Sections arranged in four classes of ten sections each, which classes of Sections shall be entitled to one Scholarship for each of their Sections, alternately, once in every four years, beginning in the year 1854.

The third Section provides that the School Committee of every town, in each class of Sections, may, in the year designated, recommend, as candidates for Scholarships, one or more young men, inhabitants of their town, who, in their opinion, and in the opinion of a competent Teacher, to be certified in writing to the Board of Education, will be well fitted for College at the Commencement next succeeding, and that the Board of Education, together with the Senators respectively who shall for the time being reside within the Section from which the selection is to be made, shall select from the candidates so recommended, one in each Section whom they shall judge most deserving and most likely to become useful as a teacher.

Section fourth provides for the selection by the Board alone of two other candidates in each year, thus completing the number of fortyeight to be selected in four years.

In other parts of the Act it is provided that one hundred dollars per annum shall be paid to each scholar so selected, for the term of four years, while attending any College in the Commonwealth, provided he shall produce from the President of such College a certificate that he has been during the year faithful in his studies, exemplary in his deportment, and that he ranks in scholarship among the first half of his class; that each scholar so aided shall teach in the public schools of the Commonwealth a term of time equal to that for which he has received the bounty of the Commonwealth; and that, if he shall fail so to teach, he shall refund the



amount received, or a part thereof, in proportion to the time he shall so fail, provided he be in competent health and can find employment.

The Board of Education, at a special meeting held January 17, 1854, divided the State into Sections, arranged the Sections into classes, and determined by lot the year in which each class of Sections should be entitled to Scholarships, according to the provisions of the Act before mentioned.

The First Class of Sections was entitled to recommend, through the School Committees of the several cities and towns, candidates for Scholarships for each of its Sections in the year 1854; the School Class was entitled to Scholarships in the year 1855; the Third Class is entitled to Scholarships in the year 1856; and the Fourth Class will be in the year 1857.

The Board of Education will meet at the office of the Secretary, on Wednesday, the 26th day of March next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to select, jointly with the Senators residing within the respective Sections, Scholars for the Third Class of Sections.

*Directions to Applicants for Scholarships.* To prevent misapprehension on the part of applicants, it is recommended that each one,—

1. Procure a recommendation from the School Committee of the city or town in which he resides, and a certificate from said Committee, and from a competent Teacher, to the effect that he is, in their opinion, well fitted to enter College at the next succeeding Commencement:

2. Procure certificates from persons well qualified to form a correct opinion, testifying that he is a person of irreproachable moral character, free from any considerable defect of sight or hearing, in good health, and of a healthy constitution:

3. Either appear before the Board at its meeting, to be held March 26, 1856, or send a written application, with the necessary certificates, directed to the Secretary of the Board. In case the application is not made in person, it would be well for the applicant to call on the member of the Board residing nearest to him, or on the Senator, if there be one residing within the Section, and to make such representation as he would wish to have laid before the Board.

The names and residences of the members of the Board are as follows:—His Excellency Henry J. Gardner, of Boston; His Honor Henry W. Benchley, of Worcester; Rev. Mark Hopkins, D. D., of Williamstown; Rev. Edward Otheman, of Chelsea; Hon. Isaac Davis, of Worcester; Dr. Henry Wheatland, of Salem; Rev. Hosea Ballou, D. D., of Somerville; Ariel Parish, Esq., of Springfield; C. C. Felton, Esq., of Cambridge; Rev. Alonzo Quint, of West Roxbury.”

The current year is the year Brighton is entitled to the presentation of a candidate for scholarship.

In behalf of the Committee,

ARTHUR SWAZEY.

ARTHUR SWAZEY,

WILLARD A. HARRINGTON,

} *Superintending School Com.*



# AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

## FIRST TERM.

	High School.		Har. Gr. Sch.		2d Gram. Sch.		1st Primary.		2d Primary.		3d Primary.		4th Primary.		5th Primary.		6th Primary.	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
No. belonging,	32	24	56	63	48	111	50	15	65	44	40	84	49	34	83	25	24	49
No. thro' term,	8	8	16	45	42	87	26	13	39	37	39	79	41	25	66	23	21	44
Average attendance,	33		87		41.8		63		64		40		73		46		26	

## SECOND TERM.

	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
No. belonging,	18	17	35	61	41	102	34	22	56	38	38	76	41	42	83	28	21	49
No. thro' term,	16	15	31	58	40	98	30	20	50	33	34	67	88	30	68	28	13	41
Average attendance,	26.6		88		44.5-11		63		65.1-2		41.29-30		81		50		30	

## THIRD TERM.

	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
No. belonging,	16	14	30	70	50	120	35	19	54	36	34	70	40	40	80	26	19	45
No. thro' term,	14	14	28	68	49	117	31	17	48	30	28	58	40	28	68	22	7	29
Average attendance,	27		109		47.2		54		61.1-2		26		69.11-13		53		28	

## SUMMARY.

Number belonging to all the Schools, 1st Term, 641; 2d Term, 597; 3d Term, 599.  
 Average attendance of all the Schools, 1st Term, 473.8; 2d Term, 489.9; 3d Term, 476.  
 Average attendance of all the schools for the year, 479.5.





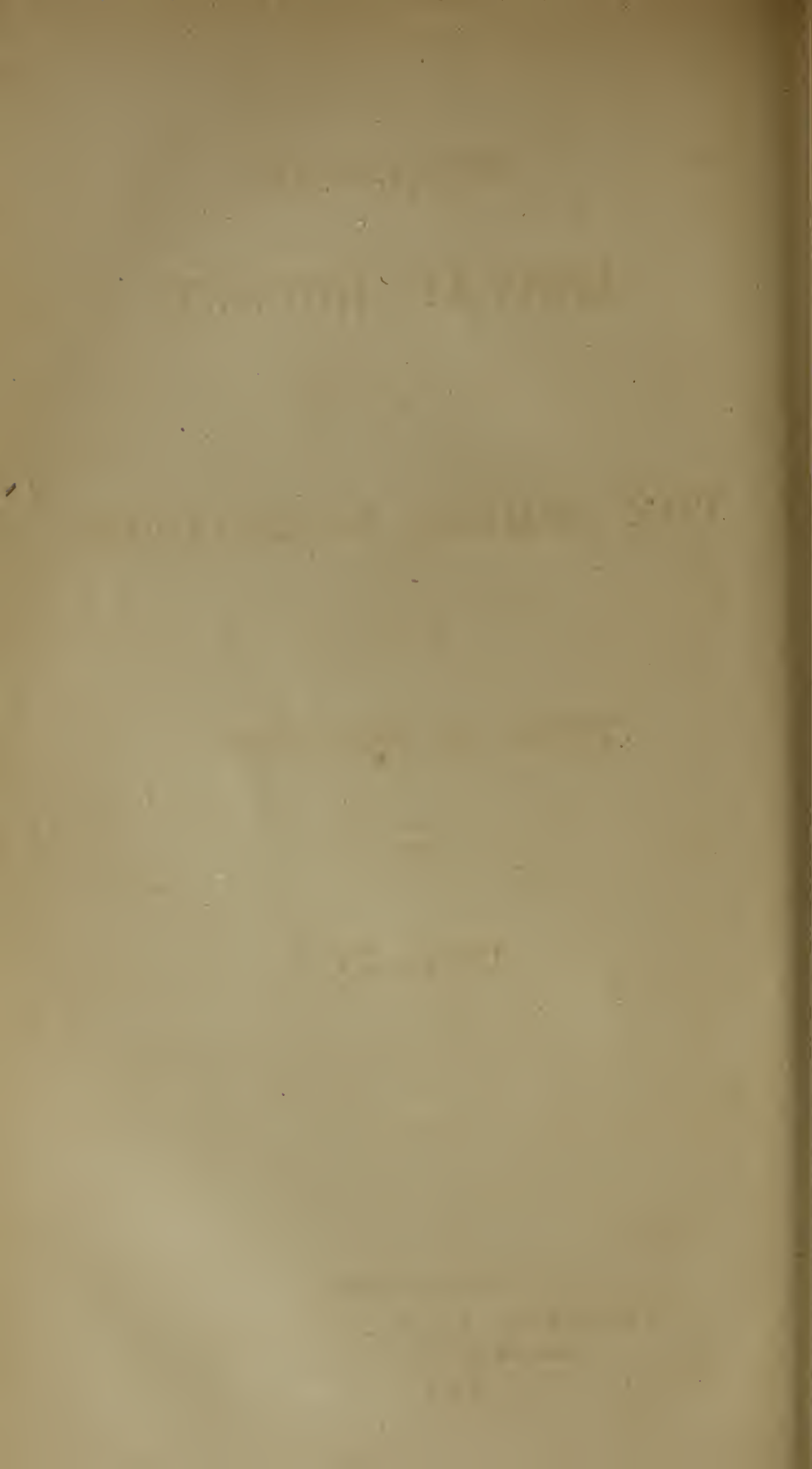


SEVENTEENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TOWN OF BRIGHTON,  
FOR  
1854-55.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
METCALF AND COMPANY,  
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.  
1855.







SEVENTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

63186

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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# REPORT.

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The Seventeenth Annual Report of the Superintending School Committee of Brighton, for the year 1854-55, is herewith respectfully submitted.

Dr. J. M. Whittemore, who was chosen in March last as a member of the Committee, declined serving, and at the Town Meeting held on May 1st, Rev. Arthur Swazey was elected in his place.

On the 29th of May, Rev. Frederick A. Whitney, who had served the Town with great diligence and usefulness for a long series of years, resigned, and Mr. F. Lyman Winship was chosen to fill the vacancy.

The Committee on whom the labors of the year have devolved have found that the management of the Public Schools is a business to be learned by experience, and have to regret that no one of them was previously acquainted with its details.

The Schools have been visited during the year, and examinations have been held at the close of each term.

## CONDITION OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

#### PRIMARY No. I.

Teacher, Miss Sophia A. Bacon, of Harvard.

Prudential Committee, Mr. E. W. Daily.

#### *First Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . 59

Boys, 28; Girls, 31.



Number through the term,	. . . . .	38
Boys, 20 ; Girls, 18.		
Average attendance,	. . . . .	35
Boys, 18 ; Girls, 17.		

*Second Term.*

Number belonging to the school,	. . . . .	58
Boys, 28 ; Girls, 30.		
Number through the term,	. . . . .	49
Boys, 24 ; Girls, 25.		
Average attendance,	. . . . .	42
Boys, 20 ; Girls, 22.		

*Third Term.*

Number belonging to the school,	. . . . .	52
Boys, 28 ; Girls, 24.		
Number through the term,	. . . . .	49
Boys, 27 ; Girls, 22.		
Average attendance,	. . . . .	27
Boys, 17 ; Girls, 10.		

This school has presented a uniformly pleasant appearance during the year. The teacher is evidently interested in her vocation. A good degree of improvement is observed.

## PRIMARY No. II.

Teachers, Miss M. B. Cunningham, Miss Ellen J. Foss,  
and Miss Martha A. Bullard.

Prudential Committee, Mr. F. N. Kimball.

*First Term.*

Number belonging to the school,	. . . . .	61
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 28.		
Number through the term,	. . . . .	47
Boys, 26 ; Girls, 21.		
Average attendance,	. . . . .	37
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 15.		

*Second Term.*

Number belonging to the school,	. . . . .	61
Boys, 40 ; Girls, 21.		



Number through the term, . . . . . 43  
Boys, 31 ; Girls, 12.

*Third Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . . 62  
Boys, 43 ; Girls, 19.

Number through the term, . . . . . 46  
Boys, 31 ; Girls, 15.

No. II. has been sadly interrupted, having had a new teacher every term during the year. There has been great confusion in the school. Your Committee, however, were agreeably surprised to find, at the last examination, decided improvement. A class spelled fifty words of two and three syllables without error.

PRIMARY No. III.

Teacher, Miss Luvia J. Celley.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Wm. R. Champney.

*First Examination.*

Number present, . . . . . 36  
Boys, 20 ; Girls, 16.

*Second Examination.*

Number present, . . . . . 43  
Boys, 21 ; Girls, 22.

*Third Examination.*

Number present, . . . . . 33  
Boys, 16 ; Girls, 17.

At the second examination there was scarcely an error in the recitations. The general appearance of the school has been good.

On the 12th of January the school-house was burnt to the ground. The maps, registers, books, and furniture were all consumed. After a short interruption, rooms were procured in Mr. Hardy's house on Lake Street, and on the 27th of January the school was again in operation.



## PRIMARY No. IV.

Teacher, Miss E. A. W. Rogers.—Assistant Teacher, Miss  
H. M. Riddle.

Prudential Committee, Mr. David Collins.

*First Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	83
Boys, 40 ; Girls, 43.	
Number through the term, . . . . .	72
Boys, 32 ; Girls, 40.	
Average attendance, . . . . .	48
Boys, 24 ; Girls, 24.	

*Second Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	86
Boys, 35 ; Girls, 51.	
Number through the term, . . . . .	80
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 47.	
Average attendance, . . . . .	62
Boys, 31 ; Girls, 31.	

*Third Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	68
Boys, 32 ; Girls, 36.	
Number through the term, . . . . .	67
Boys, 32 ; Girls, 35.	
Average attendance, . . . . .	45
Boys, 25 ; Girls, 20.	

This school is the largest Primary in the town, requiring, in fact, and by law, to be divided, or to be furnished with an assistant. The attendance having become very large, and it being known that many children in the district did not attend, on account of the number already there, it was thought desirable to open a new school. There was no room, however, your Committee could obtain for the purpose. And, on the whole, after consultation with the Prudential Committee and the Selectmen, it was deemed best, in September last, to add more seats to the school-room, to put benches in the clothes-room, and procure a



second teacher. The house is, however, so inconvenient, and the attendance so variable, that your Committee do not recommend the continuance of an assistant.

It is very desirable that something should be done, by a new division of the town, the establishment of an intermediate school, or in some other way, to reduce the numerical size of this district.

The order of the school has been good, and the recitations for the most part correct.

#### PRIMARY No. V.

Teacher, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. M. Pierce.

##### *First Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	55
Boys, 31 ; Girls, 24.	
Number through the term, . . . . .	34
Boys, 21 ; Girls, 13.	
Average attendance, . . . . .	35
Boys, 15 ; Girls, 20.	

##### *Second Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	58
Boys, 33 ; Girls, 25.	
Number through the term, . . . . .	45
Boys, 26 ; Girls, 19.	
Average attendance, . . . . .	34
Boys, 19 ; Girls, 15.	

##### *Third Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	58
Boys, 25 ; Girls, 33.	
Number through the term, . . . . .	56
Boys, 23 ; Girls, 33.	
Average attendance, . . . . .	34
Boys, 19 ; Girls, 15.	

This school has well sustained the reputation it has had in times past. The order has been good, and the examinations highly creditable.



PRIMARY No. VI.  
(*On Allston Street.*)

Teacher, Miss Sarah M. English, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Abel Meriam.

*First Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	40
Boys, 17; Girls, 23.	
Number through the term, . . . . .	26
Boys, 12; Girls, 14.	
Average attendance, . . . . .	24
Boys, 11; Girls, 13.	

*Second Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	32
Boys, 13; Girls, 19.	
Number through the term, . . . . .	29
Boys, 11; Girls, 18.	
Average attendance, . . . . .	21
Boys, 7; Girls, 14.	

*Third Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	31
Boys, 12; Girls, 19.	
Number through the term, . . . . .	29
Boys, 11; Girls, 18.	
Average attendance, . . . . .	20
Boys, 8; Girls, 12.	

This is a very small school, and is composed of very small children. In fact, it is almost an infant school. The general appearance of the school is very fair.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

(*Town Hall, on Washington Street.*)

Teachers, Mr. S. A. Poor, of Brighton, Principal.—Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton, Assistant.



*First Term.*

Number belonging to the school,	. . .	125
Boys, 71 ; Girls, 54.		
Number through the term,	. . . . .	91
Boys, 51 ; Girls, 40.		
Average attendance,	. . . . .	71

*Second Examination.*

Present,	. . . . .	75
Boys, 40 ; Girls, 35.		
Average attendance for the term,	. . . . .	85

*Third Term.*

Number belonging to the school,	. . . . .	110
Boys, 63 ; Girls, 47.		
At close of the term,	. . . . .	107
Boys, 62 ; Girls, 45.		
Present at examination,	. . . . .	89
Boys, 49 ; Girls, 40.		
Average attendance for the term,	. . . . .	99
Average for the year,	. . . . .	81

Admission to the Grammar Schools, up to June 12, 1854, has been by age, and not by scholarship. As a consequence, this school, in particular, has been kept back by the continued influx of from twenty to forty scholars, who were scarcely able to read at the time of their entering the school. Your Committee were decidedly of the opinion that a change must be made, if this school was to be continued on the footing of a Grammar School. Accordingly, after consulting with the Secretary of the Board of Education, and inquiring into the practice of other towns in the Commonwealth, it was voted, unanimously, "That an ability to read with fluency in the first reading-book of the Primary Schools, a knowledge of the four simple rules of Arithmetic, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, and some little acquaintance with Geography, be henceforth the conditions of admittance to the Grammar Schools of this Town."



The good effect of this change is seen already in the Harvard Grammar School. So far as your Committee have been acquainted with its previous condition, it has never appeared so well as at the present time.

The discipline of the school is good, and the improvement in the departments of both teachers obvious.

### GRAMMAR SCHOOL No. II.

(On Harvard Street.)

Teachers, Mr. D. Fayette Ayer, of Haverhill, and Mr. Henry Baldwin, of Brighton.

#### *First Term.*

Number belonging to the school,	. . . . .	60
Boys, 36 ; Girls, 24.		
Number through the term,	. . . . .	27
Boys, 14 ; Girls, 13.		
Average attendance,	. . . . .	36
Boys, 22 ; Girls, 14.		

#### *Second Term.*

Number belonging to the school,	. . . . .	52
Boys, 35 ; Girls, 17.		
Number through the term,	. . . . .	38
Boys, 26 ; Girls, 12.		
Average attendance,	. . . . .	40
Boys, 27 ; Girls, 13.		

#### *Third Term.*

Number belonging to the school,	. . . . .	55
Boys, 38 ; Girls, 17.		
Number through the term,	. . . . .	50
Boys, 36 ; Girls, 14.		
Average attendance,	. . . . .	44
Boys, 32 ; Girls, 12.		

Mr. Ayer, who had taken the school in October of the previous year, taught with success during the Spring and Summer. He was obliged to leave the school at the close of the Summer term, on account of illness.



In the hope that he would be able to resume his duties, your Committee delayed to secure a teacher till a month of the Fall term had expired. Learning that Mr. Ayer would not be able to return to the school, Mr. Henry Baldwin was invited to take charge of it, and entered upon his duties September 25th.

Mr. Baldwin received his preparatory education at the High School in this town, under Mr. Ruggles, the present efficient teacher, and was graduated at Yale College in July last.

Under Mr. Baldwin's management, the school has exhibited good order, and made commendable improvement.

Your Committee observed at the last examination quite a number of map-drawings, highly creditable to the scholars.

They are sorry to add, that the new building, particularly in the entry-way, has not been treated with suitable care. The matter has been investigated, and, in the opinion of your Committee, no blame attaches to the teacher.

#### HIGH SCHOOL.

(*On Academy Hill.*)

Teacher, Mr. John Ruggles, of Brighton.

##### *First Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . .	49
Boys, 20 ; Girls, 29.	
Number belonging at the close of the term, . . .	29
Boys, 15 ; Girls, 14.	
Present at examination, . . . . .	17
Boys, 11 ; Girls, 6.	

##### *Second Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . . .	35
Boys, 16 ; Girls, 19.	
Number belonging at the close of the term, . . .	32
Boys, 14 ; Girls, 18.	
Present at the examination, . . . . .	29
Boys, 14 ; Girls, 15.	



*Third Term.*

Number belonging to the school, . . . .	34
Boys, 17 ; Girls, 17.	
Number belonging at the close of the term, . . .	30
Boys, 16 ; Girls, 14.	
Present at examination, . . . . .	29
Boys, 16 ; Girls, 13.	
Average attendance for the year, . . . . .	29

This school has been smaller than usual during the past year. It has been partly owing to the advantages offered in the Second Grammar School, and the greater convenience of attending the latter, especially during the winter. The High School, however, has been large enough for one teacher; heretofore it has been too large, and is likely to be again during the coming year.

Your Committee cannot suppress their regret at the poverty of accommodation which the school-house affords, and at the inconvenience of its location.

It is not deemed necessary to multiply words in regard to the school itself. It is enough to say, that it has been conducted with marked ability and success.

The foregoing statistics in reference to attendance, &c. are wanting in uniformity and fulness, owing, in part, to the loss of some of the school registers by fire, and in part to the imperfectness of those returned.

## SCHOOL-CHILDREN.

The number of children between the ages of five and fifteen, on the first day of May last, was found to be, boys, 266; girls, 234; total, 500; or 25 more than on May 1st of the year before.

## APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

Amount appropriated by the Town, . . .	\$ 3,900.00
Town's portion of State School Fund, . . .	114.00
Balance in favor of schools, from account of schools, 1853 - 54, . . . . .	28.93
	<hr/>
	\$ 4,042.93



*Paid for Teachers' Wages.*

John Ruggles, Principal of High School,	\$ 1,000.00
S. <del>M.</del> Poor, Principal of Harvard Gram. School,	700.00
Anna J. George, Assistant do.,	275.00
D. F. Ayer, Principal 2d Grammar School,	300.00
H. Baldwin, do. do.	250.02
Miss S. <del>M.</del> Bacon, Teacher District No. 1, 44 weeks,	198.00
Miss M. B. Cunningham, Teacher District No. 2, 9 weeks,	40.50
Miss E. J. Foss, Teacher District No. 2, 20 weeks,	90.00
Miss M. A. Bullard, Teacher District No. 2, 13 weeks,	58.50
Miss L. J. Celley, Teacher District No. 3, 44 weeks,	198.00
Miss E. A. Rogers, Teacher District No. 4, 44 weeks,	198.00
Miss H. M. Riddle, Assistant District No. 4, 22 weeks,	66.00
Miss S. E. Waugh, Teacher District No. 5, 44 weeks,	198.00
Miss S. M. English, Teacher District No. 6, 43 weeks,	193.50
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,765.52

*Paid for Fuel.*

Primary No. 1, including 2d Grammar School,	
Coal,	\$ 180.00
Charcoal and kindlings,	32.04
Primary No. 2, 4,000 lbs. coal,	18.50
Primary No. 3, 4,000 lbs. coal,	\$ 18.50
Charcoal and kindlings,	4.93
	<hr/>
	23.43
Primary No. 4, including the High School,	
12,200 lbs. coal,	\$ 56.47
Charcoal and kindlings,	18.75
	<hr/>
	75.22
Primary No. 5, Charcoal and kindlings,	1.00
Primary No. 6, 2,000 lbs. coal,	18.12
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$ 348.31



Amount brought forward, . . . .	\$ 348.31
Harvard Grammar School, including all fuel in the Town Hall during the year,	
28,250 lbs. coal, . . . . .	\$ 131.79
Charcoal and kindlings, . . . . .	26.67
	<hr/> 158.46
	<hr/> \$ 506.77
Amount for Teachers' wages, . . . . .	\$ 3,765.52
Amount for fuel, . . . . .	506.77
	<hr/> \$ 4,272.29
Amount of appropriations, . . . . .	4,042.93
	<hr/>
Excess of expenses, . . . . .	\$ 229.36

Your Committee have exceeded the appropriation. They have only to say, that there was no other course for them to pursue, except to stop the schools. Neither the High nor the Grammar Schools could be stopped, as the Teachers were engaged for the year; and to have reduced the expenditure to the appropriation, all the Primaries must have been closed for about eight weeks.

The Town was warned by the last Committee, that the appropriation would not cover the necessary expenses of the year. The change in the price of fuel will account for a considerable part of the excess.

## SUGGESTIONS.

### *Classification of Scholars.*

Your Committee suggest to Teachers more care in the classification of scholars. It not unfrequently occurs that pupils are found, e. g., in the first class, who are no more advanced than those of the second, and that pupils are found in the second class advanced quite as far as most of those in the first. Classification strictly according to attainments will give the schools a better appearance, and, what is mainly to be considered, will conduce much to the improvement of every scholar.



*Lessons.*

In some of the schools the scholars go over too much ground, and in others too little. In the former case, the school appears to disadvantage at examination; in the latter, very much better than it really is. The teacher should determine how many pages, or lessons, the class may be able to master, *by suitably taxing their industry*. If pupils learn only a very few pages during a term, though they learn them perfectly, one great end of study is defeated, if the extent of ground passed over has not been sufficient to bring their own resources into exercise.

If too much ground is passed over, of course nothing is learned well; and yet it is a serious question, whether the stretch of mind thus, in some measure, secured, is not quite as good as the perfect lessons learned by the endless repetition of the teacher, and without the effort of the scholar.

*Registers.*

The registers, in most cases, are not kept perfectly, and therefore are of little value to the Committee, or the Board of Education. Your Committee suggest to teachers, that they have no private judgment in the matter, but keep the registers *precisely as they were designed to be kept*.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NEW COMMITTEE.

Your Committee recommend to their successors to carry out the change which has been made in regard to admittance to the Grammar Schools.

As before remarked, this change was made under the pressure of necessity, and by the advice of the most competent persons. And the more your Committee have thought of the matter, the more thoroughly are they convinced that a return to the old system would so burden the schools, that they could not be made to maintain a respectable standing as Grammar Schools. Confident in the



wisdom of their successors, it is not deemed necessary to urge the matter further.

It is suggested, also, that early attention be given to the reading-books used in the schools, with reference, more particularly, to the Grammar Schools.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TOWN.

Your Committee recommend that henceforth it be REQUIRED that the Bible be read in the Public Schools every day, by every pupil who can read with tolerable fluency, and that the Lord's Prayer be used by the teachers, or the scholars, or both together, every morning, at the opening of the schools.

Your Committee are strongly opposed to the introduction of a sectarian element into the system of public instruction, in any form whatever. And they submit, that the Bible, the Christian religion, including prayer to Almighty God, are no more sectarian than the whole fabric and constitution of our government, and especially of our own Commonwealth, in whose yearly bounty we share. The safety of our institutions, as well as the individual good of the pupils themselves, requires that piety and virtue be taught to our youth, hand in hand with secular learning.

It is recommended that a new building be immediately erected for the use of Primary No. III., of such dimensions and cost, and in such location, as the Town shall determine.

It is recommended that a new and commodious building be erected for the use of the High School. The inconvenience of the building now in use, together with the difficulty of access to it, is urged upon the attention of the citizens.



# APPROPRIATION FOR THE COMING YEAR.

Your Committee recommend that \$4,200 be raised and appropriated for teachers' wages, and for fuel, for the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted,

In behalf of the Committee,

ARTHUR SWAZEY.

ARTHUR SWAZEY,	}	<i>Superintending School Committee.</i>
EDMUND RICE, JR.,		
F. LYMAN WINSHIP,		

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BRIGHTON, *March 5, 1855.*

In Town Meeting, read, accepted, and ordered to be printed.

Attest,

WM. WARREN, *Clerk.*



## APPENDIX.

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### SCHOOL TERMS, VACATIONS, AND EXAMINATIONS.

The school year commences with this day, the 1st Monday of March, and extends to the 1st Monday of March, 1856. It is divided into three school terms. During the last week of each term, the Committee will visit and examine every school. There are eight weeks of vacation, besides several single days. The school year begins with a vacation of one week. The first term commences on the 2d Monday of March (12th day), and extends to the 5th Monday of July (30th day), comprising twenty weeks. A vacation of four weeks follows. The second term commences on the 4th Monday of August (27th day), and extends to the 4th Monday of November (26th day), comprising thirteen weeks. A vacation of one week follows. The third term commences on the 1st Monday of December (3d day), and extends to the 1st Monday of March, 1856 (3d day), comprising thirteen weeks.

A recess of two weeks occurs in the long term, beginning with the 4th Monday of May (28th day), and extending to the 2d Monday of June (11th day). This recess makes up the eight weeks of vacation. It is not considered as ending a term. When the recess begins, the School Registers are not to be closed up, as they are before each vacation.

The salaries of the teachers who are hired by the year are payable quarterly, on the 5th day of June, September, and December, and the 6th day of March, 1856.



The weekly compensation of teachers is to be paid at the close of each school term,—on the last Saturday of July and November, and on the first Saturday of March, 1856.

### WARNING.

Your Committee desire to warn all furnishers of fuel, lumber, books, furniture, and labor, that neither the School Committee nor the Town are liable for any article, or work, charged to their account, for the use of the schools, unless ordered by the proper authorities.



## LYCEUM.

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The first Lecture before the Lyceum was given on Tuesday evening, November 21st, by Hon. N. P. Banks, of Waltham, on "The Relation between the Industrial, Mechanical, and Commercial Pursuits of the Country"; and was followed by Lectures by Rev. William H. Milburn, Chaplain of U. S. Senate, on "The Rifle, the Axe, and the Saddle-bags, as Symbols of early Western Life,—or, the Hunter, the Farmer, the Missionary"; by Hon. John P. Hale, of New York, on "The Last Gladiatorial Exhibition at Rome"; by Rev. James F. Clarke, of Boston, on "Italy"; by Rev. S. K. Lothrop, D. D., of Boston, on "Elements of Durability in Modern Civilization"; by Rev. Ezra S. Gannett, D. D., of Boston, on "Manners"; by Daniel N. Haskell, of Boston, on "The History of our Early Political Parties"; by Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr., of Boston, on "Personal Reminiscences of Generals Lafayette and Jackson"; by George F. Bigelow, M. D., of Boston, on "The Origin and Disadvantages of Names"; by Oliver Wendell Holmes, M. D., of Boston, on "The Americanized European."



EIGHTEENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TOWN OF BRIGHTON,  
FOR  
1855-56.

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BOSTON:  
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1856.







# R E P O R T.

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THE Eighteenth Annual Report of the Superintending School Committee of Brighton, relating to the School-year 1855-56 is herewith respectfully submitted.

The statistics of attendance upon the Schools, usually spread over eight or ten pages of the Report, may be found in a tabular form on the last page.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### PRIMARY No. I.

Prudential Committee, Mr. S. Hill.

Primary No. I. has been under the instruction of Miss Sophia A. Bacon, who entered the School March 15th, 1853.

#### *First Examination, July 26.*

This examination passed off well, there being but few failures. The order of the school was good. A general improvement was noticed.

#### *Second Examination, November 22.*

The school appeared very well; one class in spelling did remarkably well. The recitations in geography were, for the most, correct. Fourteen scholars were punctual in attendance during the term. The order of the school at the examination was not perfect.

#### *Third Examination, February 22.*

The order of the school was very good. The recitations of the first and second classes in arithmetic were very prompt. The second class in reading did well; the first class not so



well. The errors in spelling in the second class were rather too numerous. The singing at this examination was uncommonly sweet. The writing books had been neglected for several weeks.

There is one lad in this school who has not been absent for two years; and another who has been neither absent, nor tardy, nor dismissed, for one year.

The progress of the scholars for the year has been very gratifying.

#### PRIMARY NO. II.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Robert Fletcher.

Miss Martha A. Bullard, who taught this school a part of the last year, resigned on the 15th of April. On the 7th of May Miss Mary J. Kimball, of Topsfield, was qualified as teacher, and entered the school.

#### *First Examination, July 26.*

The improvement of this school, since Miss Kimball took charge of it, has been very great.

#### *Second Examination, November 21.*

This school was crowded during the term; the number of scholars being eightythree. Notwithstanding the number of scholars, and the former anarchy of the school, the progress was very evident. The reading we marked "very good, particularly in distinctness, and in the thorough understanding on the part of the scholars of what they read."

#### *Third Examination, February 23.*

The report of the second examination will answer very well for the third. It is necessary only to add, that the writing books were not all of them so neat as it is desirable to have them.

No. II. is yet behind some of the other Primary Schools; but considering the condition of the school when Miss Kimball entered it, a great deal of credit must be accorded to the teacher.



## PRIMARY No. III.

Prudential Committee, Mr. William R. Champney.

*First Examination, July 26.*

This school, under the charge of Miss Luvia J. Celley, held its session, after the burning of the school-house, in a house belonging to Mr. Charles Hardy. The room was small, and inconvenient. The number of scholars diminished somewhat. The school, however, has done as much as could be expected under the circumstances.

*Second Examination, November 20.*

The writing books were generally neat, and some of them very creditable indeed. The classes in geography answering readily. A commendable improvement throughout the school was apparent; owing in part to the airy, pleasant and convenient new school-house, which was entered in the early part of the term.

*Third Examination, February 25.*

Miss Celley having resigned, Miss Ellen Harris, of this town, was qualified as teacher, and entered the school December 3d. The reading was good. The classes in geography answered with commendable promptness. The progress of one or two boys in arithmetic is specially worthy of remark. Miss Harris has been so successful her first term, that we shall expect her to be among the foremost of our teachers after a little more experience.

## PRIMARY No. IV.

Prudential Committee, — — —.

*First Examination, November 26.*

Miss Harriet M. Blake, of West Cambridge, was qualified as teacher at the beginning of this school-year. The first class in reading did themselves and their teacher credit in emphasis and inflection. The order of the school was as good, and the progress of the school as great, as could be expected where so many (100) scholars were huddled in so small a room, under one teacher.



*Second Examination, November 20.*

The report of the first examination will answer for the second, for the most part. This term Miss Blake was assisted by her sister, Miss S. P. Blake; but the want of room defeated pretty much the object for which an assistant was appointed.

*Third Examination, February 25.*

Miss Catharine Stearns was appointed in place of Miss Blake resigned. Miss Stearns had taught the school before, when it was much smaller, with a good degree of success; and her return was in accordance with the wishes of the people in the district. The order of the school was very good indeed, and a general improvement was observed. There are a few good scholars in this school. The most of the children, however, are backward. So little ground was gone over in reading and spelling, and so very simple were the words the first class had learned to spell, that the examination in this important branch was of little interest. In judging of this school it must always be remembered how large it is.

PRIMARY No. V.

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. M. Pierce.

*First Examination, July 26.*

Miss Waugh did her usual work this term.

*Second Examination, November 19.*

We find in our note book the following memorandum:—  
“Arithmetic very good *indeed*; writing books creditable; geography good. In reading more attention should be paid to inflection; otherwise reading and spelling *very good*.”

*Third Examination, February 26.*

Writing books not worthy of praise or censure. The scholars did not define words so readily as is desirable. Classes in reading, arithmetic and geography were worthy of very great commendation.

This school, of which Miss Sarah E. Waugh has been the



faithful teacher so long, is inferior to some of the other schools of the same grade in some little things, but, all in all, must be considered as taking the lead of the Primaries in this town.

#### PRIMARY NO. VI.

Prudential Committee, Mr. A. Meriam.

##### *First Examination, July 26.*

The school was pleasant, and had made very fair progress.

##### *Second Examination, November 19.*

The writing books were neat. The classes in geography, arithmetic, and Child's philosophy were quite prompt in answering the questions put to them by the teacher. The reading was in some respects good, in others quite faulty.

##### *Third Examination, February 26.*

The report of the second examination will answer very well for the third.

Miss Sarah M. English, who has taught this school for several years, is a conscientious and diligent instructor. The Committee, however, would be glad to report *greater progress* of the scholars.

#### GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

##### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Mr. S. A. Poor, Principal. Miss Anna J. George, Assistant.

##### *First Examination, July 27.*

The school appeared very well in the departments of both teachers. There is a good deal of *raw material* in this school, requiring patience and perseverance to work it into shape. The discipline of the school is very creditable to both teachers.

##### *Second Examination, November 22.*

Our note book says, "Arithmetic very good; general improvement, particularly in reading."



*Third Examination, Morning and Afternoon, February 28.*

There is nothing showy about this school; the elements of which it is composed forbid that there should be. The studies are plain grammar, arithmetic, geography, reading, spelling, writing and a little history. Though a whole day was devoted to this school, we were able to examine only the first and second classes in the different branches. Many of the scholars did very well indeed, and some of them otherwise. It was quite evident that the teachers had been diligently at work. There are a few scholars in this school fitted to enter the High School.

The Assistant in the Harvard Grammar School is excelled by none of our teachers in the thoroughness and easy accuracy of her instructions. We noticed particularly a great carefulness in the pronunciation of geographical names.

Harvard Grammar School is slowly getting over the evil effects of the old system of admitting scholars by age. In two or three years from this time, we shall expect to see quite another school.

One of the wants of this school is a Library, consisting of some popular Encyclopedia, a Pronouncing Gazetteer, &c.; and should any attempt be made to procure such a library, we hope the parents of the children, who are to reap the advantage, will contribute liberally to the object.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL No. II.

Mr. John D. Marston, Principal.

*First Examination, July 27.*

This school made considerable improvement the first term. The teacher begun well. The examination evinced zeal on the part of both teacher and scholars.

*Second Examination, November 22.*

The improvement during the second term was more marked than during the first term. The recitations in geography and grammar were particularly interesting. Mr. Marston's method of teaching grammar is very thorough. The writing



books were generally neat, but the penmanship was not so good as it might have been. Specimens of map drawing were presented worthy of special commendation.

*Third Examination, February 27.*

The recitations in arithmetic of the third, fourth and fifth class were very fair. The second class did well. The examination of the first class was thorough, and well sustained throughout. The scholars belonging to the class in algebra, did themselves credit. The reading classes did very well. There are a few very excellent readers in this school. A class in descriptive geography was listened to with interest. The writing books were some of them very creditable, others, and the greater proportion of them, not so much so. Map drawings were presented of great accuracy, indicating a good deal of patience and skill on the part of both instructor and scholars.

This school is a very pleasant one indeed. Some of the scholars are quite far advanced ; indeed, a grammar school in the grade that ours occupy, is hardly the place for them. We thought that we discovered, at all the examinations, a little want of drilling in the lower classes.

Mr. Marston came to this school with eleven years' experience, and your Committee hope he will long remain in his present position.

#### HIGH SCHOOL.

Principals, Mr. John Ruggles, Mr. Bartholemew Wood, Mr. George W. Dow, Mr. Guilford S. Newcomb.

Mr. John Ruggles taught this school for four weeks, at the beginning of the school-year, when contrary to the earnest remonstrance of your Committee he resigned his place here, after a service of thirteen years, and accepted a call to become principal of the High School in Taunton. Mr. Ruggles's resignation was so abrupt, that a recess of a few weeks necessarily ensued. Mr. Bartholemew Wood, of Newton, was finally elected to his place, who resigned at the close of the summer term. Mr. George W. Dow was next procured,



who gave up the school at the end of the term. Hearing of the excellent reputation Mr. G. S. Newcomb, of New Bedford sustained, both as a man and as a teacher, your Committee went to New Bedford, made thorough inquiries respecting Mr. Newcomb, and engaged him to enter the school.

*First Examination, July 28.*

Your Committee found that the school had been broken up a great deal during the summer, and was unable to make much pretension to progress.

*Second Examination, November 22.*

The school revived a good deal during the second term, and considerable progress was made in the various studies.

*Third Examination, February 29.*

The second class in arithmetic made a very fair recitation. The first class did admirably well. The excellence of the recitation was *the evident understanding on the part of the scholars*, of the processes necessary for the solution of the problems. The classes in Greek, Latin, French and Physiology made very good recitations. The recitations in algebra and geometry were very prompt and correct. The school formed a single class in geography, and interested the visitors by answering questions not often found in the books.

The scholars in the High School are not, perhaps so far advanced as we might desire. But your Committee are ready to affirm, that, in no period of their acquaintance with the school, has the improvement of the scholars been more marked, than during the last eleven weeks of the School-year. Mr. Newcomb is thoroughly acquainted with his profession, and what is of quite as much importance, has the enthusiasm of a teacher. Under his charge we predict great progress in the school.

There is, however, need of a reorganization of the school, mainly, with reference to classifying the scholars. It is proposed, that a regular course of study be laid down, through which all the scholars shall pass who enter, and remain in the



school. We are not prepared to say at present just what that course should be,—but it should be something as follows :—

## REGULATIONS AND ORDER OF STUDY FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Scholars may be admitted to this school annually, and may remain members of it three years, during which time they will be required to attend to the following

### COURSE OF STUDY.

**FIRST YEAR.** Reading, Spelling, English Grammar, Geography, History of the United States, Physiology, Arithmetic, and Algebra.

**SECOND YEAR.** Reading, Spelling, English Grammar, General History, Book Keeping, Algebra, Natural Philosophy.

**THIRD YEAR.** Reading and Parsing exercises in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Arithmetic and Algebra reviewed; Geometry, Astronomy, Chemistry, and Surveying.

Latin, Greek and French shall be optional studies during the second and third years.

Scholars preparing for College, may, during the whole course, attend to the studies required for admission to College, engaging in such other exercises as their time will allow.

There will be general exercises in Composition and Declamation, and a weekly lesson in Moral Science, during the whole course.

Those admitted to the school at each annual examination, shall constitute a new class, thus making three classes constantly in school. The present members of the school are to be examined and classified, according to their present attainments. Scholars may be advanced from one class to another, not according to the time they have been in the school, but upon examination conducted by the Principal, or the Committee.

If a scholar shall enter the school at any time *after* the beginning of the School-year, he shall be examined in the studies which the class he enters has already attended to, as well as in the preparatory studies.



Each scholar will be required to attend to all the studies of his class, unless excused by the Committee.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

More attention should be paid to accuracy in pronunciation on the part of the teachers generally.

There should be a reform with some of the teachers in the methods used in teaching classes to spell. We refer particularly to the *mouthing*, and the barbarous habit of *mispronouncing* words in order to make them easier to the scholar—For example: “*con-n-n*”—“*tempt-t-t*”—“*i-i-i*”—“*ble-e-e*”—instead of “*contemtable*.”

Much more attention should be paid to the intellectual arithmetic—scholars should not be encouraged to enter upon written arithmetic, till they can master Colburn;—or if it is deemed better to allow written arithmetic, the intellectual should not be abandoned.

Great attention should be given to *reviews*. Nothing pays better than a thorough weekly, monthly and quarterly review of the ground which has been traversed.

More attention should be paid to penmanship in all the schools.

Parents and guardians are requested to consider, whether anything is to be gained by hurrying their children from the Primaries to the Grammar Schools, and from the Grammar to the High School.

Our schools are graded, but the Committee have not been able to adhere strictly to the rules by which they are graded. For example: They have been obliged, in order to distribute the children where there are accommodations for them, to keep in some of the *smaller* Primaries, those who were tolerably well qualified to enter the Grammar Schools; while from the *larger* Primaries, they have been obliged to take some who were not so well qualified for the next higher school. Some scholars, also, from the larger Grammar School have been sent to the High School, while others better prepared have been kept in the smaller Grammar School. There has been no help for this course of procedure, and there will be none,



only as the accommodations for scholars are increased. The children who seem to have been kept back, however, are not the losers thereby; for it is, at least, as well to be in a small school of a lower grade with a good teacher, as it is to be in a crowded school of a higher grade.

### SCHOOL-HOUSES.

No II. needs more room. The school is at present greatly incommoded by the incapacity of the School-house.

A neat, airy, convenient and substantial School-house has been erected the past year in District No. III. The house is 42 feet by 32 feet, and 14 feet stud. The cost of the building, with the cellar, is		\$2,323 54
Furniture,		160 61
		<hr/>
		\$2,484 15

During the year several town meetings have been held with reference to a School-house for District No. IV., and for a High School-house; and finally \$6.100 00 were appropriated for a building that should furnish both the school-rooms desired.

The School-house in District No. V., needs to be enlarged.

### SCHOOL CHILDREN, AND POPULATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

The number of School Children between five and fifteen years of age, on the first day of May last, was found to be 612; the number between five and sixteen years of age, was 665.

It may be interesting to citizens to know the population of the several School Districts, and the relative number of Americans and foreigners.

<i>May 1st 1855.</i>	<i>American.</i>	<i>Foreigners.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
District No. 1,	321	126	447
District No. 2,	265	247	512
District No. 3,	275	185	460
District No. 4,	291	295	586
District No. 5,	385	128	513
District No. 6,	233	40	273
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1770	1021	2791



In June last the population of the town, according to the census taken at that time, was 2895. By the same census we learn (by subtracting the "foreign born" from the "number of foreigners") that the number of children of foreigners was 230. Allowing that there are 30 of these children too young to be reckoned as school children and we estimate, that 200 or one-third of the school children in the town are children of foreigners. This estimate is not absolutely accurate, as we reckon the number of school children from the census of May, and the number of children of foreigners from the census of June. There are also some children "foreign born." Without doubt, however, the estimate is very near the truth.

## APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

### PAID FOR TEACHERS' WAGES.

HIGH SCHOOL,	J. Ruggles, Teacher,	4 weeks,	\$90 00
	B. Wood,	Do. 15 do.	341 00
	G. W. Dow,	Do. 13 do.	295 45
	G. S. Newcomb,	Do. 11 do.	250 00
H. G. SCHOOL,	S. A. Poor,	Do.	700 00
	A. J. George,	Do.	275 00
S. G. SCHOOL,	J. D. Marston,	Do.	600 00
DIST. No. 1,	S. A. Bacon,	Do. 43 weeks,	193 50
Do. No. 2,	M. A. Bullard,	Do. 5 do.	22 50
	M. J. Kimball,	Do. 12 do.	54 00
	Do. Do.	Do. 13 do. \$5 50	71 50
	Do. Do.	Do. 13 do.	71 50
Do. No. 3,	L. J. Celley,	Do. 30 do.	135 00
	E. Harris,	Do. 13 do.	58 50
Do. No. 4,	H. M. Blake,	Do. 30 do.	125 00
	S. P. Blake, A.	Do. 8 do. \$3 00	24 00
	C. Stearns,	Do. 13 do. \$5 50	71 40
Do. No. 5,	S. E. Waugh,	Do. 44 do.	198 00
Do. No. 6,	S. M. English,	Do. 44 do.	198 00
			<hr/>
			\$3,785 35

### PAID FOR FUEL.

No. 1, and Second Grammar School,	-	-	\$185 84
No. 2,	-	-	21 08
No. 3,	-	-	25 00
No. 4, and High School,	-	-	96 50
No. 5,	-	-	26 45
No. 6,	-	-	22 25
Harvard Grammar School and Town Hall,	-	-	99 48

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\$474 58



Teachers' Wages, - - - - -	\$3,785 35
Fuel, - - - - -	474 58
	<hr/>
	\$4259 93

Amount appropriated by the Town,	\$4,200 00
Town's portion of State School Fund;	111 00
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Expenditures,	\$4,311 00
	4,259 93
	<hr/>

Balance,	\$51 07 •
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Your Committee recommend an appropriation the coming year of \$4,750.

Before closing the Report your Committee would bring to the notice of the citizens the provision of the State for indigent scholars who desire to procure a liberal education :—

“By the first Section of the Act, entitled “An Act establishing State Scholarships,” approved April 27, 1852, chapter 193, fortyeight State Scholarships are established “to aid in educating and training young men for the office of principal Teacher in the High Schools of the Commonwealth.”

By the second Section it is enacted, that in the year 1854, again in the year 1861, and every ten years thereafter, the Commonwealth shall be divided by the Board of Education into forty Sections, and these Sections arranged in four classes of ten sections each, which classes of Sections shall be entitled to one Scholarship for each of their Sections, alternately, once in every four years, beginning in the year 1854.

The third Section provides that the School Committee of every town, in each class of Sections, may, in the year designated, recommend, as candidates for Scholarships, one or more young men, inhabitants of their town, who, in their opinion, and in the opinion of a competent Teacher, to be certified in writing to the Board of Education, will be well fitted for College at the Commencement next succeeding, and that the Board of Education, together with the Senators respectively who shall for the time being reside within the Section from which the selection is to be made, shall select from the candidates so recommended, one in each Section whom they shall judge most deserving and most likely to become useful as a teacher.

Section fourth provides for the selection by the Board alone of two other candidates in each year, thus completing the number of fortyeight to be selected in four years.

In other parts of the Act it is provided that one hundred dollars per annum shall be paid to each scholar so selected, for the term of four years, while attending any College in the Commonwealth, provided he shall produce from the President of such College a certificate that he has been during the year faithful in his studies, exemplary in his deportment, and that he ranks in scholarship among the first half of his class; that each scholar so aided shall teach in the public schools of the Commonwealth a term of time equal to that for which he has received the bounty of the Commonwealth; and that, if he shall fail so to teach, he shall refund the



amount received, or a part thereof, in proportion to the time he shall so fail, provided he be in competent health and can find employment.

The Board of Education, at a special meeting held January 17, 1854, divided the State into Sections, arranged the Sections into classes, and determined by lot the year in which each class of Sections should be entitled to Scholarships, according to the provisions of the Act before mentioned.

The First Class of Sections was entitled to recommend, through the School Committees of the several cities and towns, candidates for Scholarships for each of its Sections in the year 1854; the School Class was entitled to Scholarships in the year 1855; the Third Class is entitled to Scholarships in the year 1856; and the Fourth Class will be in the year 1857.

The Board of Education will meet at the office of the Secretary, on Wednesday, the 26th day of March next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to select, jointly with the Senators residing within the respective Sections, Scholars for the Third Class of Sections.

*Directions to Applicants for Scholarships.* To prevent misapprehension on the part of applicants, it is recommended that each one,—

1. Procure a recommendation from the School Committee of the city or town in which he resides, and a certificate from said Committee, and from a competent Teacher, to the effect that he is, in their opinion, well fitted to enter College at the next succeeding Commencement:

2. Procure certificates from persons well qualified to form a correct opinion, testifying that he is a person of irreproachable moral character, free from any considerable defect of sight or hearing, in good health, and of a healthy constitution:

3. Either appear before the Board at its meeting, to be held March 26, 1856, or send a written application, with the necessary certificates, directed to the Secretary of the Board. In case the application is not made in person, it would be well for the applicant to call on the member of the Board residing nearest to him, or on the Senator, if there be one residing within the Section, and to make such representation as he would wish to have laid before the Board.

The names and residences of the members of the Board are as follows:—His Excellency Henry J. Gardner, of Boston; His Honor Henry W. Benchley, of Worcester; Rev. Mark Hopkins, D. D., of Williamstown; Rev. Edward Otheman, of Chelsea; Hon. Isaac Davis, of Worcester; Dr. Henry Wheatland, of Salem; Rev. Hosea Ballou, D. D., of Somerville; Ariel Paish, Esq., of Springfield; C. C. Felton, Esq., of Cambridge; Rev. Alonzo Quint, of West Roxbury.”

The current year is the year Brighton is entitled to the presentation of a candidate for scholarship.

In behalf of the Committee,

ARTHUR SWAZEY.

ARTHUR SWAZEY,	} <i>Superintending School Com.</i>
WILLARD A. HARRINGTON,	



# AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

## FIRST TERM.

	High School.	Har. Gr. Sch.	2d Gram. Sch.	1st Primary.	2d Primary.	3d Primary.	4th Primary.	5th Primary.	6th Primary.																		
	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l									
No. belonging,	32	24	56	63	48	111	50	15	65	44	40	84	49	34	83	25	24	49	47	53	100	32	25	57	15	21	36
No. thro' term,	8	8	16	45	42	87	26	13	39	37	39	79	41	25	66	23	21	44	35	47	82	29	25	54	8	15	23
Av. attendance,	33			87			41.8			63			64			40,			73			46			26		

## SECOND TERM.

	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l
No. belonging,	18	17	35	61	41	102	34	22	56	38	38	76	41	42	83	28	21	49	49	50	99	39	30	60	17	20	37
No. thro' term,	16	15	31	58	40	98	30	20	50	33	34	67	88	30	68	28	13	41	42	42	84	28	25	53	16	19	35
Av. attendance,	26.6			88			44.5-11			63			65.1-2			41.29-30			81			50			30		

## THIRD TERM.

	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l	Boys	Girls	Tot'l
No. belonging,	16	14	30	70	50	120	35	19	54	36	34	70	40	40	80	26	19	45	49	49	98	34	33	67	19	16	85
No. thro' term,	14	14	28	68	49	117	31	17	48	30	28	58	40	28	68	22	7	29	42	36	78	30	29	59	16	15	31
Av. attendance,	27			109			47.2			54			61.1-2			26			69.11-13			53			28		

## SUMMARY.

Number belonging to all the Schools, 1st Term, 641; 2d Term, 597; 3d Term, 599.  
 Average attendance of all the Schools, 1st Term, 473.8; 2d Term, 489.9; 3d Term, 476.  
 Average attendance of all the schools for the year, 479.5.







1704  
NINETEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

4358.5  
TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1856-57.

CAMBRIDGE:  
METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1857.







17027  
NINETEENTH

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# REPORT.

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THE School Committee of Brighton respectfully submit their Nineteenth Annual Report, for the year 1856 - 57.

## SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Our school system offers still but three grades, — the Primary, the Grammar, and the High School. Each year is felt more and more the need of one other grade intermediate between the Primary and the Grammar Schools, that pupils should pass into the latter from qualifications strictly, and not from age alone. While qualifications alone are the condition of admission to the High School, it is obvious that this standard cannot be followed, in all instances, in admissions to the Grammar Schools. Pupils are found who, perhaps, have come to us from other places and from abroad, having enjoyed no early advantages for education, who are too old to be retained in the Primaries with the smaller children, under the female teachers, by whom those schools are taught through the year; and these must be transferred to the Grammar Schools, in some cases quite unqualified. With the further growth of the Town, one or more intermediate schools will be indispensable. Their benefit would inevitably be perceived in all the grades. The qualifications at present required for admission to the High School it would then be well to increase considerably.

## SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The Town has added very liberally to its school accommodations the past year. A spacious and elegant building has been erected on Academy Hill for the High School and for Primary School No. IV., at a cost, including the furnishing, of nearly seven thousand dollars. It was opened on the 1st of September. Another commo-



dious school-house, also of two stories, has been erected on School Street, costing, with furniture and insurance, \$4,306.59, and was opened December 15. All the school-houses in Town, with but three exceptions, are now new and handsome, of modern and approved construction, and with the best furniture. The three exceptions are the Harvard Grammar School, — the lower story of the Town-Hall, a spacious room, but located in too public a place, — and Primaries V. and VI. These three have the modern school chairs. In few, if in any, towns of the State would so large a proportion of the school edifices be found of modern construction and furniture. None, at all familiar with school arrangements and progress, could doubt for a moment the good effect of spacious, commodious, and well-ventilated buildings on all true improvement.

You have, besides, recently erected a handsome building on Washington Street, for Primary No. III., at a cost, with furniture and insurance, of nearly three thousand dollars; and a large brick edifice on North Harvard Street, for the Second Grammar School and Primary No. I., at a cost of nearly nine thousand dollars.

## CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

This has been ascertained, as usual, by repeated visits to the schools, by conference with the teachers, and by the stated examinations, which have been held according to law. The examinations took place at the close of each school term, in the months of July, November, and February.

### HIGH SCHOOL.

#### *Academy Hill.*

Teacher, Mr. John Ruggles, of Brighton.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	57.	Boys 26 ;	Girls 31.
Belonging at the close,	48.	“ 24 ;	“ 24.
Present,	39.	“ 20 ;	“ 19.
Average attendance,	40.	“ 22 ;	“ 18.

#### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	50.	Boys 25 ;	Girls 25.
Belonging at the close,	44.	“ 23 ;	“ 21.
Present,	39.	“ 21 ;	“ 18.
Average attendance,	41.	“ 21 ;	“ 20.



*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	51.	Boys 26 ;	Girls 25.
Belonging at the close,	50.	" 26 ;	" 24.
Present,	47.	" 25 ;	" 22.
Average attendance,	40.	" 22 ;	" 18.

At the commencement of the school year, Mr. Ruggles was re-appointed Teacher, and took charge of this school on the 24th of March, a new building having been commenced. He had taught it without interruption from the 3d of May, 1841, until the 7th of April, 1855, when he left it for a more spacious school-room and a more lucrative situation, as Principal of the High School in Taunton.

On the 24th of March, the Committee devoted six hours to the examination of pupils for admission to this school. Written questions were submitted in Arithmetic, Geography, and Grammar, to which replies and solutions were returned by the pupils, as in previous years, with no conference between themselves, or with books or teachers. As will be seen on reference to the figures, the number of scholars has been nearly double that of the previous year ; imposing a labor altogether too great for a single teacher. In the first term there were 57 different pupils, and 48 remained at the close. In the second, there were 50, and 44 remained. In the last term there were 51, and 50 remained.

The school has been examined in the studies usually pursued here ; — in English Grammar, Reading, General History, and History of the United States ; in Physiology and Natural Philosophy ; in English Literature and Rhetoric ; in Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, and Book-keeping ; in Penmanship, English Composition, and Declamation ; and in the Latin, Greek, and French Languages. Very general accuracy and thoroughness have been manifested.

On the first day of September the school was opened in the new building, a spacious and beautiful edifice. At the recent examination, held through the day, nearly a hundred of the parents and friends of the pupils were attracted to witness the exercises, and, we believe, were highly gratified. The school was happily addressed by Rev. Mr. Tenney, of the Second Church in this town, who has recently come among us, having been interested in the cause of education in the State of Ohio, and who denoted the examination the best he had ever attended, and as a remarkably honest examination. The reading of select pieces was very good. Three original compositions—a poem, the measure in imitation of Longfellow's



Hiawatha, and a paper on Heathen Mythology, by John Bigelow and Charles T. Dunklee, preparing for admission at Harvard University this year,\* and a valedictory address by Helen Frances Howe — gave great satisfaction. The Declamation was very correct and spirited, including some exercises in Latin from Cicero. The teacher has again afforded us very satisfactory results of his scholarship, and ability to instruct.

In this school is offered to the youth of the town, of either sex, an opportunity of acquiring a thorough English and Classical Education, such as, without it, could only be obtained at considerable expense, from private schools. It has already prepared for us several of the best teachers we have ever employed in town, and sent out some to labor successfully in other places. The School has been well represented at Harvard and at Yale, at the Lawrence Scientific School, and at West Point. How should it be cherished by all the citizens who desire the best education for their children, — the welfare and good name of their town! How should its advantages be still more enlarged! There is need of apparatus, that the studies pursued may be further illustrated. There is need, especially, of an Assistant Teacher, that the labors of the faithful Principal may be more reasonably apportioned. Indeed, with the present size of the school, it would seem entirely impracticable to admit more pupils there without such assistance. And your Committee will propose some addition to the appropriation for Teachers' Wages, that an Assistant Teacher may be provided here.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Town-Hall, Washington Street.*

Principal, Mr. S. A. Poor, of Brighton.

Assistant, Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term, 127. Boys 74; Girls 53.

Belonging at the close, 90. " 44; " 46.

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\* Several are pursuing the studies preparatory for College. The only students at present in College from this town are Norton, Sophomore, son of John Norton; Russell, Freshman, son of James Dutton Russell; Warren, Freshman, son of George W. Warren, whose house is here, and residence part of the year, — all of Harvard University. Whittemore, son of Dr. Whittemore of this town, and late of the High School, is student at West Point.



Present,	72.	Boys 33 ;	Girls 39.
Average attendance,	84.	“ 43 ;	“ 41.

*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	99.	Boys 51 ;	Girls 48.
Belonging at the close,	93.	“ 47 ;	“ 46.
Present,	75.	“ 37 ;	“ 38.
Average attendance,	82.	“ 40 ;	“ 42.

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	110.	Boys 62 ;	Girls 48.
Belonging at the close,	106.	“ 60 ;	“ 46.
Present,	92.	“ 50 ;	“ 42.
Average attendance,	96.	“ 51 ;	“ 45.

This is the largest school in town. The Principal first took charge of it on the 28th of September, 1847, and the Assistant on the 17th of March, 1851. Both appear to have fulfilled well their offices. The pupils present great variety of attainments. Classes are heard by the Assistant in the Recitation-Room; and we award her much credit for her success in the patient drilling of some very backward scholars, as well as in promoting those more tractable, and whose advantages for learning have been greater. She has excellent abilities for teaching, and came first to this school with nearly four years' experience in Primary School No. II. The Principal, to whom teaching was no strange work when he came here, is excelled, perhaps, by none in the ready management and discipline of a school, and the rare ability to blend good teaching with good order in the school-room. We have been pleased to learn that, through his perseverance in ferreting out truants from their lurking-places, and bringing them before the proper tribunal,—the judgment, namely, of teachers, parents, and Committee,—the vice of truancy has about ceased.

At the several examinations, the same number of classes, we believe, instructed by the Principal and by the Assistant, have been presented. They have been heard in all the branches usually taught in Grammar Schools,—in English Grammar and Geography, History of the United States, Spelling, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. The method practised in Spelling is to be commended. Sentences are read aloud by the Teacher or Assistant, to be written by the pupils on their slates, together with their own names. The pupils then exchange slates; and while the sentence, rightly spelled, is read aloud, each one follows and corrects what is before him. As no one



is correcting his own work, but his neighbor's, so each is pretty sure to detect any inaccuracy in the spelling before him.

The writing of Compositions is practised. And in this department, as in Penmanship, without witnessing any remarkable attainments, we have been gratified with manifest improvement in several of the pupils. We find pleasant relations here between the teachers and pupils, and report it a happy and well-instructed school.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*North Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Mr. John D. Marston, of Parsonsfield, Me.

### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	60.	Boys 41 ;	Girls 19.
Belonging at the close,	33.	" 21 ;	" 12.
Present,	32.	" 20 ;	" 12.
Average attendance,	42.	" 28 ;	" 14.

### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	39.	Boys 28 ;	Girls 11.
Belonging at the close,	37.	" 27 ;	" 10.
Present,	32.	" 22 ;	" 10.
Average attendance,	35.	" 25 ;	" 10.

### *Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	43.	Boys 32 ;	Girls 11.
Belonging at the close,	36.	" 27 ;	" 9.
Present,	34.	" 25 ;	" 9.
Average attendance,	36.	" 26.6 ;	" 9.4.

The teacher has completed two years of service in this school, having taught in various places for some eleven years before coming here. His interest in his work does not appear to tire, and it insures him success. In addition to the studies pursued in the Harvard Grammar School, we have here classes in Algebra, Physiology, Natural Philosophy, and Book-keeping. But as the school is small, it has been best to allow the pupils so wishing to pursue these studies, as they might not, perhaps, enjoy the advantage elsewhere. We have had at each examination a fair proportion of correct exercises. The reading of select pieces has been good, and some very beautiful specimens of map-drawing have been exhibited. At the second examination some prizes were awarded by the Teacher, for deportment. Two prizes were also given by him for the greatest improvement in Penmanship ; and the examination of the writing-books was, for this



end, assigned to Mr. Matchett, of the School Committee. He examined the books at home, and awarded the prizes.

At the second examination, Mr. Tallman, a State School Inspector for Rhode Island, was present, addressed the school, and commended its appearance. The friends have come in good numbers to witness the exercises, and alike for the encouragement of teacher and pupils. The number of pupils is such as to afford the best opportunity to all to receive full attention from the teacher. With so competent a teacher, so disposed and well adapted to assist them, it must be their own fault if they do not make progress.

The furnaces in this school-house, furnished by the Messrs. Pond of Boston, have not proved satisfactory to the Committee. We have been subjected to considerable expense in keeping them in order, and they have signally failed to answer the purpose for which they were placed there. It will be best, we believe, another season, to dispense with them altogether, and to warm the rooms with stoves similar to that lately placed in the new Primary School-room No. II.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. I.

*North Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Sophia A. Bacon, of Harvard.

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. B. Goodnough.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	78.	Boys 42 ;	Girls 36.
Belonging at the close,	78.	" 42 ;	" 36.
Present,	69.	" 37 ;	" 32.
Average attendance,	62.	" 33 ;	" 29.

#### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	78.	Boys 40 ;	Girls 38.
Belonging at the close,	74.	" 37 ;	" 37.
Present,	67.	" 35 ;	" 32.
Average attendance,	67.	" 34 ;	" 33.

#### *Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	73.	Boys 38 ;	Girls 35.
Belonging at the close,	73.	" 38 ;	" 35.
Present,	66.	" 36 ;	" 30.
Average attendance,	53.	" 30 ;	" 23.



The average attendance in this school, for the last term, has been a little smaller than in the two previous terms. But it has been for the year a great school. The largest number belonging at one time was seventy-eight; smallest number, seventy-three. Only the remarkable gifts of the teacher for managing children, and her long experience as an instructor, would have presented such gratifying results as have been witnessed here. The classes generally have recited well, and several have appeared much above the average. The pupils learn, and are made happy by the teacher in learning. She completes, this day, her fourth year of service in this school; and, we believe, with the entire satisfaction of all parties concerned.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. II.

*School Street.*

Teacher, Miss Mary Jane Kimball, of Topsfield.

Prudential Committee, Mr. W. A. Brabiner.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	94.	Boys 52;	Girls 42.
Belonging at the close,	88.	" 48;	" 40.
Present,	70.	" 38;	" 32.
Average attendance,	69.	" 37;	" 32.

#### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	76.	Boys 41;	Girls 35.
Belonging at the close,	75.	" 40;	" 35.
Present,	66.	" 33;	" 33.
Average attendance,	66.	" 34;	" 32.

#### *Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	70.	Boys 38;	Girls 32.
Belonging at the close,	70.	" 38;	" 32.
Present,	49.	" 28;	" 21.
Average attendance,	43.	" 25;	" 18.

By examining a file of the School Reports, one will see that this school has not been very favorably reported since the year 1851, when the Committee, Messrs. Breck, Hunting, and Nichols, returned it as "the model Primary School of the town," and were of opinion that few of its class would be found superior in the Commonwealth. We hope that commendation, which was so just then, may again be due. Miss Kimball took charge of the school in May, 1855, when it was in some confusion from the frequent change of teachers the previous



year. Her work has been much interrupted through part of the last year by the erection of the new school-house directly against the windows of her room, and by the large number of children in so small a place. This spacious and beautiful building was first occupied on the 15th of December last, and the old building sold and removed. Since then, with such excellent accommodations, as to size and height of room, air, warmth, ventilation, and furniture, a great improvement has been witnessed. There has been more sickness here the last term than in the other schools, and the attendance consequently diminished. At the close of the second term, five boys and three girls, we found, had not been once absent; and one boy and three girls had been absent but once. The writing-books are hardly up to the Primary average, but look better than in the old building. Some deficiency we noticed in school-books, even where there was ability to procure them. The teacher has been faithful and successful.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. III.

*Corner of Washington and Faneuil Streets.*

Teacher, Miss Ellen Harris, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. William Champney.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	65.	Boys 32 ;	Girls 33.
Belonging at the close,	55.	“ 26 ;	“ 29.
Present,	42.	“ 17 ;	“ 25.
Average attendance,	46.	“ 19 ;	“ 27.

#### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	56.	Boys 26 ;	Girls 30.
Belonging at the close,	48.	“ 24 ;	“ 24.
Present,	37.	“ 19 ;	“ 18.
Average attendance,	37.	“ 18 ;	“ 19.

#### *Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	45.	Boys 23 ;	Girls 22.
Belonging at the close,	45.	“ 23 ;	“ 22.
Present,	34.	“ 17 ;	“ 17.
Average attendance,	33.	“ 17 ;	“ 16.

Perhaps no one of the Primaries quite equals this, if we consider all merits together, — correctness of recitation, distinctness of utterance, order and stillness, neat writing-books, and well-disposed children. But then, as in the Parable, where much is given, more is



required. Here much is given in the comparatively small number of children, and in the advantage of single desks, while in the other new buildings double desks are used because single ones spread over too large a surface for a great school. The reading, even by the youngest, was so good, and the room so very still, that none could tire in listening. The beautiful house was first occupied in September, 1855, the direction of the streets about it slightly varied, and the grounds enclosed, November, 1856. Miss Harris began here December 3, 1855, and has been very successful. Of course, in detailing the appearance of schools, we are very careful to allow for the difference in work required in the smaller and in the larger ones. Not to speak of the difference offered in the material to be worked upon, compare for size this school with

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. IV.

##### *Academy Hill.*

Teacher, Miss Catharine Stearns, of Lancaster.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Daniel Kingsley.

##### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	97.	Boys 50 ;	Girls 47.
Belonging at the close,	87.	" 43 ;	" 44.
Present,	71.	" 34 ;	" 37.
Average attendance,	70.	" 32 ;	" 38.

##### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	94.	Boys 43 ;	Girls 51.
Belonging at the close,	88.	" 39 ;	" 49.
Present,	75.	" 36 ;	" 39.
Average attendance,	68.	" 33 ;	" 35.

##### *Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	84.	Boys 40 ;	Girls 44.
Belonging at the close,	79.	" 40 ;	" 39.
Present,	75.	" 36 ;	" 39.
Average attendance,	67.	" 33 ;	" 34.

The teacher, with more than fourscore pupils, took possession of the new school-house on the first day of September last, on the opening of the Fall term. Through the year the school has been the largest of the Primaries, and the teacher's work the most laborious. But we must report her very successful. Notwithstanding the interruptions to the school from the severity of the winter weather, we



have been much gratified at our last visit with the general correctness of the exercises, the good order, the interest, and animation of the pupils, the neat writing-books and school register, and the pleasant singing, more generally shared in than in the other schools. The teacher resumed the charge of this school in December, 1855, having before taught the same most acceptably from December, 1847, to March, 1851.

PRIMARY SCHOOL No. V.

*Shepard Street.\**

Teacher, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. M. Pierce.

*First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	70.	Boys 35 ;	Girls 35.
Belonging at the close,	64.	" 32 ;	" 32.
Present,	60.	" 30 ;	" 30.
Average attendance,	52.	" 27 ;	" 25.

*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	70.	Boys 36 ;	Girls 34.
Belonging at the close,	69.	" 36 ;	" 33.
Present,	63.	" 33 ;	" 30.
Average attendance,	57.	" 29 ;	" 28.

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	64.	Boys 34 ;	Girls 30.
Belonging at the close,	62.	" 33 ;	" 29.
Present,	55.	" 29 ;	" 26.
Average attendance,	49.	" 27 ;	" 22.

The pupils generally are more advanced in their studies in this than in any other Primary. The first and second classes, particularly in Arithmetic and in Reading, excelled. There is no Alphabet class. All can read without first spelling. The writing-books show some improvement during the year. The Register is very neatly kept. The teacher, for her remarkable gifts and her long success, deserves a new school-house. This, indeed, will soon be indispensable. It will be seen that, in the first and second terms, seventy different

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\* The name of this street is sometimes erroneously written *Shepherd*. It is the name of Rev. Thomas Shepard, the early and eminent Minister of the town of Cambridge, of which this place was part until 1807, who came from England in 1635, and settled here.



scholars were entered. The room is quite too small for so many, if we regard their health alone, and cannot be well ventilated. It is difficult, where the children are as much crowded as here, to secure that stillness observed in some of our new and spacious school-rooms. Miss Waugh commenced in May, 1848 ; and has thus been engaged uninterruptedly, and with the great satisfaction of successive Committees, almost nine years.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. VI.

*Allston Street, near Beacon.*

Teachers, Miss Sarah M. English and Miss Mary Ellen Smart, both of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Abel Meriam.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	45.	Boys 23 ;	Girls 22.
Belonging at the close,	38.	" 20 ;	" 18.
Present,	30.	" 14 ;	" 16.
Average attendance,	29.	" 15 ;	" 14.

#### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	43.	Boys 23 ;	Girls 20.
Belonging at the close,	43.	" 23 ;	" 20.
Present,	38.	" 20 ;	" 18.
Average attendance,	32.	" 16 ;	" 16.

#### *Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	42.	Boys 22 ;	Girls 20.
Belonging at the close,	37.	" 20 ;	" 17.
Present,	34.	" 17 ;	" 17.
Average attendance,	31.	" 16 ;	" 15.

Two months since, January 10th, Miss English, on account of ill-health, resigned the charge of this school, which she took in February, 1853. Miss Smart was approved as teacher, and began on the 13th of January. The pupils generally are younger and less advanced in this school than in any other. At the first two examinations we marked the order very good, the room and children and school-register neat. At the second examination, the first class in Arithmetic, and first and second in Geography, excelled. The last examination was not so satisfactory as the others. But we did not regard it as a test of the teacher's success, as she has so lately commenced here with little previous experience.



## PAST APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statement is returned by the Secretary of the Board, of expenditure for teachers' wages and for fuel. The incidental expenses for schools are reckoned apart from wages and fuel. It will be seen that the expenditure has been kept within the appropriation.

The sum appropriated by the town for teachers' wages	
and for fuel, last year, was	\$ 4,800.00
Town's portion of the State School Fund,	124.44
	<hr/>
	\$ 4,924.44

Paid for teachers' wages:—

John Ruggles, Principal of the High School	
(salary, \$ 1,200),	\$ 1,145.45 *
S. A. Poor, Principal of the Harvard Grammar School,	800.00
Anna J. George, Assistant of do.,	300.00
John D. Marston, Principal of Second Grammar School,	700.00
Sophia A. Bacon, of Primary No. I., 43 weeks, at \$ 5.50,	236.50
Mary J. Kimball, of Primary No. II., 41 weeks, at \$ 5.50,	225.50
Ellen Harris, of Primary No. III., 43 weeks, at \$ 5.50,	236.50
Catharine Stearns, of Primary No. IV., 44 weeks, at \$ 6.00,	264.00
Sarah E. Waugh, of Primary No. V., 42 weeks, at \$ 5.50,	231.00
Sarah M. English, of Primary No. VI., 36 weeks, at \$ 4.50,	162.00
Mary Ellen Smart, of Primary No. VI., 7 weeks, at \$ 4.50,	31.50
	<hr/>
	\$ 4,332.45

\* Began two weeks late. On page 4 of the Treasurer's Report, \$ 845.45 is returned. One bill of \$ 300 approved and paid to Mr. Ruggles by the Treasurer was accidentally mislaid when the Auditors examined his accounts. He has since found it, and it will appear in his Report next year.



Paid for fuel : —

*Primary No. I. (including Second Grammar School).*

Coal, — 25 tons, at average \$7.41,	\$ 185.25	
Charcoal, \$ 29.90 ; kindlings, \$ 3.00,	32.90	
	<hr/>	\$ 218.15

*Primary No. II.*

Coal, — 4 tons, at \$ 8.62½,	\$ 34.50	
Wood, . . . . .	2.25	
Charcoal (bill was too late for Treasurer's Report),	4.00	
	<hr/>	40.75

*Primary No. III.*

Coal, — 4¼ tons, at \$ 7.48½,	\$ 31.81	
Charcoal and kindlings, . . . . .	2.88	
	<hr/>	34.69

*Primary No. IV. (including the High School).*

Coal, — 10 $\frac{795}{1000}$ tons, at \$ 7.31,	\$ 78.92	
Charcoal and kindlings, . . . . .	11.00	
	<hr/>	89.92

*Primary No. V.*

Coal, — 2 $\frac{2}{10}$ tons, at \$ 7.25,	\$ 15.95	
Charcoal and kindlings, . . . . .	6.29	
	<hr/>	22.24

*Primary No. VI.*

Coal, — 1½ tons, at \$ 7.25,	\$ 10.87	
Wood, . . . . .	4.50	
	<hr/>	15.37

*Harvard Grammar School (including all fuel for Town-Hall).*

Coal, — 15½ tons, at \$ 7.44½,	\$ 115.37	
Charcoal and kindlings, . . . . .	30.47	
	<hr/>	145.84
		<hr/>
		\$ 566.96

Average cost of coal for the year, \$ 7.47 $\frac{37}{100}$  per ton.

Appropriation and amount received from State,	\$ 4,924.44
Total expended for teachers' wages,	\$ 4,332.45
“ “ “ fuel, . . . . .	566.96
Balance unexpended, . . . . .	25.03
	<hr/>
	\$ 4,924.44

The Committee have furnished the new school-houses erected the past year, for the High School and for Primaries Nos. II. and IV., at the following expense : —



*High School and Primary No. IV.*

W. O. Haskell, 8 settees, at \$ 4.95, . . . . .	\$ 39.60
J. G. Blake, 5 chairs, \$ 1.25, . . . . .	6.25
S. Willard & Son, 1 clock, . . . . .	15.00
S. Wales, Jr., 60 double desks, \$ 3.50, . . . . .	\$ 210.00
20 Primary chairs, . . . . .	22.00
Table, \$ 10.50 ; Desk, \$ 37, . . . . .	47.50
2 teachers' chairs and cushions, . . . . .	8.00
Screws, \$ 4.40 ; Carting, \$ 4, . . . . .	8.40
Varnishing old chairs, . . . . .	12.36
	<hr/>
	308.26
J. C. Wadleigh, taking up old chairs, repairing same, and putting down chairs and desks, . . . . .	43.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 412.11

*Primary No. II.*

J. T. Winchester, stove with radiators, pipe, &c., . . . . .	\$ 45.79
W. O. Haskell, 25 double desks, \$ 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ , . . . . .	\$ 84.37
Table, \$ 10.50 ; 4 chairs, \$ 6, . . . . .	16.50
6 settees, at \$ 4.95, . . . . .	29.70
1 chair cushion, \$ 1.50 ; screws, \$ 2.44, . . . . .	3.94
Carting, . . . . .	3.00
	<hr/>
	137.51
S. Wales, Jr., 30 chairs, at \$ 1.16, . . . . .	34.80
E. Clark, taking up and removing chairs, and labor, . . . . .	6.00
H. Lloyd, staining and varnishing old chairs, . . . . .	8.37
J. C. Wadleigh, repairing old chairs, and putting down desks and chairs, . . . . .	22.87
	<hr/>
	\$ 255.34
	<hr/>
	412.11

Total, — Furniture, . . . . . \$ 667.45

Expended last year, for building, furnishing, repairing school-houses, for incidental school expenses, making fires, services of committees, &c., . . . . .	\$ 11,448.20
Teachers' wages, . . . . .	4,332.45
Fuel, . . . . .	566.96
	<hr/>

Total for all school purposes, . . . . . \$ 16,347.61



The following table shows what amount has been expended each year, since 1840 - 41, for teachers' wages and for fuel; the corresponding balance over or under the year's appropriation, increased by the town's portion of the State School Fund; and the compensation rendered to the Prudential and General School Committee.

Year.	Wages and Fuel.	Balance over or under Appropriation.	Compensation to Prudential Committee.	Do. to General Committee.
1840 - 41	\$ 1,040.08	\$ 40.08 over	. .	\$ 79
1841 - 42	1,954.83	45.17 under	. .	101
1842 - 43	1,958.94	41.06 "	\$ 40	58
1843 - 44	1,994.65	5.35 "	40	85
1844 - 45	1,905.28	94.72 "	40	75
1845 - 46	1,730.05	270.95 "	40	75
1846 - 47	2,058.09	241.91 "	60	75
1847 - 48	2,374.17	.68 over	60	80
1848 - 49	2,731.66	40.31 under	60	74
1849 - 50	3,176.89	2.47 "	60	92.50
1850 - 51	3,244.14	348.67 "	60	120
1851 - 52	3,517.63	29.12 "	60	90
1852 - 53	3,595.18	3.83 "	60	70
1853 - 54	3,978.16	28.93 "	60	80
1854 - 55	4,272.29	229.36 over	60	102
1855 - 56	4,259.93	51.07 under	60	* 146.08
1856 - 57	4,899.41	25.03 "	60	125

### SCHOOL-CHILDREN.

The number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the 1st day of May last, according to law, was 587; — males 307, females 280. Some under five, and over fifteen, attend school. But these ages are assumed for convenience by the Massachusetts Board of Education in their yearly calculations, and so certified to their Secretary, annually, by the School Committee of each town. The following table shows the number registered the last term in each school, and the number belonging and present in each at the closing examination; also the average attendance for each term.

\* Of this \$ 12.75 allowed for travelling expenses.



1856 - 57.

587 children between five and fifteen.

	Registered.	Belonging.	Present.	1st Term.	AVERAGE. 2d Term.	3d Term.
H. S.	51	50	47	40	41	40
H. G. S.	110	106	92	84	82	96
2d G. S.	43	36	34	42	35	36
No. I.	73	73	66	62	67	53
" II.	70	70	49	69	66	43
" III.	45	45	34	46	37	33
" IV.	84	79	75	70	68	67
" V.	64	62	55	52	57	49
" VI.	42	37	34	29	32	31
	<hr/> 582	<hr/> 558	<hr/> 486	<hr/> 494	<hr/> 485	<hr/> 448

The schools have been much interrupted, the last term, by the severity of the winter, and by prevalent sickness in some sections. The averages have been in consequence greatly reduced.

## REGULAR AND PUNCTUAL ATTENDANCE.

This is a matter which concerns all, teachers, pupils, parents. Indispensable conditions for good schools are these: that teachers observe strictly the required hours for opening and closing, and the days or half-days allotted for school-keeping and for recess; that pupils attend constantly and regularly; and that parents neither detain them at home, unless from absolute necessity, nor ask that they may be excused before the school is dismissed. We see the evil that comes from violating each and all of these conditions. The tardy, inconstant pupil, what a drag he is on the school! how surely does he betray the wretched habit in his imperfect attainments compared with his regular schoolmates! how surely is he laying the foundations of an inefficient, if not positively vicious character! Unspeakable harm it is for boy or girl to think lightly of school, as if that might give way at any time to other occupations or pleasures. The subject receives not half the consideration it deserves from parents and guardians of the young.

The Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, Hon. George S. Boutwell, appends, as usual, to his late exceedingly able and interesting annual Report, abstracts from the Reports of School Committees, which are required by law to be forwarded each year to his office. Among these abstracts he brings together a mass of testimony, from various parts of the State, to the alarming evil of irregular and inconstant attendance. While we see from this that our own



town does not suffer in comparison with most other places, we must still urge on all concerned more heed in this matter. In a few instances we have learned, through reports made to us from families, that teachers have not been quite punctual in opening and closing at prescribed hours, and have sometimes omitted school for personal considerations, without authority, and compromised by making up the time thus lost. A bad way for the schools. We believe that the practice of *making up* a day or half-day thus lost is, for the most part, but *making down*. Little is regained. Keeping school on the whole of Wednesday or Saturday while the afternoons of those days are prescribed holidays with us, and then omitting school on parts or the whole of some other days, is not just as well. In certain cases, of course, this may be allowed ; but they must be rare, and with permission.

In regard to the average attendance of children on the public schools, the Secretary, in the tables appended to his Report above named, places Brighton the 108th among the 331 towns of the Commonwealth. That is, 107 towns stand better than we do, have a larger proportion of their children than we have regular. These are mostly rural towns and remote from us. Few cities or towns near us stand as well as we do. Boston stands, 215 ; Brookline, 298 ; Roxbury, 160 ; Dorchester, 282 ; Charlestown, 208 ; Newton, 173 ; Watertown, 204 ; Waltham, 179 ; West Roxbury, 136 ; Medford, 236 ; Concord, 212 ; Milton, 226 ; Quincy, 195 ; Salem, 230 ; Taunton, 290. As the immediate suburbs of a large city might be expected to offer more attractions to keep children from school than less stirring places, we may be glad that we are not so far down on the Secretary's scale as most of our neighbors. But it should be our aim to get a better mark even from him for the ensuing year.

## TOWN'S RANK AS TO ITS APPROPRIATION.

The question is sometimes asked, if we are as liberal as we should be in our appropriation for support of schools. This must be answered in part by comparison with other towns. Supposing every town to have a natural curiosity in this matter, the Secretary of the Board of Education gives each year with his Report (which is presented to the Legislature in January, and then distributed through the State) a list of all the towns, arranged in the order of their liberality. He simply divides the sum raised in the town by taxes



for support of schools, by the number of children in the town between the ages of five and fifteen. The town which would thus allow the largest sum to each child stands first in his list; the next largest, second; and so through all. This table has been kept every year since 1840. Brighton then stood 37th among all the towns of the State. The next year she added one thousand dollars to her appropriation for wages and fuel, and went up in the scale to the first place. For that day the addition of one thousand dollars in a town no larger than this was an immense stride, and she was enabled to keep her place at the head of all the towns yet another year. But exactly as with the character, — let one be satisfied to do no better, just try to rest on what one has already done or attained, and down the character must go; so for the third year, no further addition having been made, two other towns had overtaken her, and down she went from the first place to the third in the Secretary's scale. As will be seen by the following table, her place has since varied from year to year. In his last Report, the Secretary gives her standing based on the appropriation of March, 1855. That of March, 1856, which was somewhat augmented, will not be returned to him till next month. He thus places Brighton 25th among the 331 towns of the State. That is, 24 towns, dividing their appropriation by the number of school-children, would allow for each child more than we do; 306 towns would allow less.

Nahant stands 1st on the list, raising by taxes \$ 1,000, and returning but 37 children, allowing to each child \$ 17.54. Brookline stands 2d, raising \$ 9,200, and returning 721 children; to each, \$ 12.76. Boston, 11th, raising \$ 246,796.67, with 29,093 children; to each, \$ 8.48. Charlestown, 24th, raising \$ 31,237.00, with 4,316 children; to each, \$ 7.23. Brighton, 25th, raising \$ 4,354, with 612 children; to each, \$ 7.11.

Last year you added six hundred dollars to the previous year's appropriation for wages and fuel. We ask you, to-day, to make an addition to last year's. By the following table it will be seen, that, while the population of the town and number of public schools has but little more than doubled since the establishment of the Massachusetts Board of Education, your appropriation is more than five times as great as it was then.



Year.	Population.	No. of Public Schools.	School- Children.	Appropriation for Wages and Fuel.	Rank.
1837	1,337	4	337	1,000	
1838 - 39	"	4	338	1,200	
1839 - 40	"	4	323	1,200	
1840 - 41	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841 - 42	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842 - 43	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843 - 44	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844 - 45	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845 - 46	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846 - 47	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847 - 48	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848 - 49	"	9	496	2,700	11
1849 - 50	2,356	9	452	3,100	8
1850 - 51	"	9	402	3,500	3
1851 - 52	"	9	445	3,500	6
1852 - 53	"	9	455	3,500	11
1853 - 54	"	9	475	3,900	9
1854 - 55	"	9	500	3,900	10
1855 - 56	2,895	9	612	4,200	25
1856 - 57	"	9	587	4,800	
1857 - 58	"	9	*	5,300	

### SCHOOL TERMS, VACATIONS, AND EXAMINATIONS.

The school year extends from the 1st Monday of March, 1857, to the 1st Monday of March, 1858. It is divided into three school terms. During the last week of each term the Committee will visit and examine every school. There are eight weeks of vacation ; and the following days are prescribed holidays, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, first day of January, Washington's birthday, Fast-day, May-day, Independence, Commencement, and Christmas. The school year begins with a vacation of one week. The first term commences on the 2d Monday of March (9th day), and extends to the 4th Monday of July (27th day), comprising twenty weeks. A vacation of five weeks follows. The second term commences on the 5th Monday of August (31st day), and extends to the 4th Monday of November (23d day), comprising twelve weeks. A vacation of one week follows. The third term commences on the 5th Monday of November

\* To be ascertained in May.



(30th day), and extends to the 1st Monday of March, 1858 (1st day), comprising thirteen weeks.

A recess of one week occurs in the long term, beginning with the 4th Monday of May (25th day), and extending to the 1st Monday of June (1st day). This recess makes up the eight weeks of vacation. It is not considered as ending a term. When the recess begins, the school registers are not to be closed up, as they are before each vacation.

The quarter salaries of teachers are payable on the 2d day of June, September, December, and 27th day of February, 1858. The weekly compensation of teachers is to be paid at the close of each school term, — on the 4th Saturday of July (25th day), on the 3d Saturday of November (21st day), and on the 4th Saturday of February 1858 (27th day).

#### APPROPRIATION FOR WAGES AND FUEL.

The Committee recommend that the sum of \$ 5,300 be raised and appropriated for teachers' wages and for fuel for the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted,

In behalf of the Committee,

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	}	<i>Superintending School Committee.</i>
THEODORE MATCHETT,		
SAMUEL BECK,		

*Brighton, March 9, 1857.*

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*Brighton, March 9, 1857.*

In Town Meeting, read, accepted, and ordered to be printed.

Attest,

WM. WARREN, *Town Clerk.*



At the Town Meeting on the 9th, \$ 5,300 was appropriated for wages and fuel, as recommended, and the following Committee was chosen for the ensuing year : — Rev. Frederic A. Whitney, Rev. Daniel Tenney, Rev. James W. Bonham, Theodore Matchett, Esq., Edmund Rice, Jr., Esq.

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*In School Committee, March 16, 1857.*

*Resolved*, That, agreeably to suggestions made on page 20 of the foregoing Report, the teachers employed for the ensuing year be requested to observe, particularly, the hours assigned for opening and closing school, and not to suspend or keep their schools on other days or half-days than those prescribed.

Attest,

THEODORE MATCHETT, *Secretary*.

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## PUBLIC LECTURES.

A course of Lectures has been given at the Town Hall weekly, as usual, the past winter, as follows : —

November 24, by Rev. Frederic D. Huntington, D.D., of Cambridge, on "The Hands, the Brain, and the Heart"; by Rev. William R. Alger, of Boston, on "The Old Chivalry and the New"; by William Wirt Warren, Esq., of Brighton, on "The Supposed Hostility of Patriotism to Philanthropy"; by Hon. Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri, on "The Union"; by George Vandenhoff, Esq., of Boston, "Readings"; by Rev. John Wight, of Wayland, on "Public Libraries"; by Rev. James W. Bonham, of Brighton, on "The Political Condition of Palestine in the Time of Christ"; by Wendell Phillips, Esq., of Boston, on "Street Life in Europe"; by Rev. Frederic A. Whitney, of Brighton, on "The Hope of the Present Age"; by William R. Emerson, Esq., of Boston, on "Village Architecture"; by Augustus Mason, M.D., of Brighton, on "The True Idea of an American"; by Rev. Thomas S. King, of Boston, on "Existence and Life"; by Ralph Waldo Emerson, of Concord, on "The Conduct of Life." And apart from this course, the citizens have had an opportunity to listen to an interesting lecture from Oscar Hughan, Esq., late of Australia, on "The Climate, Productions, and Social Relations" of that country.



TWENTIETH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

4357-58

TOWN. OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1857-58.

CAMBRIDGE:

METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1858.







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82368

Brighton, Nov. 1, 1867.



## R E P O R T .

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THE Twentieth Annual Report of the School Committee of Brighton, for the year 1857-58, is herewith respectfully submitted.

By the removal from town, in the fall of 1857, of Rev. Messrs. Tenney and Bonham, who were elected on the Board at the last annual meeting, the duties devolved on the remaining three, the present members. They much regretted losing the co-operation and counsels of those gentlemen, who, while here, manifested a lively interest in the Schools, and, through happy qualifications for the office, rendered valuable assistance. The School year has imposed the usual amount of care and labor on the Committee; and their attendance on regular meetings, and their visits to the Schools for examinations and otherwise, as certified on the records, have amounted in the aggregate to one hundred and fifty times.

### STANDARD OF EDUCATION.

The standard of education, and of the arrangement, furnishing, and management of schools, is continually rising about us. The position of our town, in the immediate suburbs of the commercial metropolis of New England, and by the side of the oldest, best endowed, and most distinguished literary institution on this continent, will not permit us to go backward in the cause of learning. The provision which twenty years ago was deemed liberal for the support of Schools, would to-day be held quite insufficient. No more fatal mistake could we commit, than to



suffer this leading interest of the town to decline through inadequate encouragement and sympathy. Any deterioration in the condition of the public Schools, either by contracting the advantages they offer, or by placing over them incompetent teachers, is sure to work evil, as for the whole town, so especially for the less opulent portion of the inhabitants. While the children of the wealthier families are gradually withdrawn from Schools which fail to meet the demands of the age, and supplied with private instruction, those less favored with outward means, and so having no choice beyond the Common Schools, are left for the most part to bear the sad burden they have themselves, perhaps unwittingly, allowed. We believe our citizens neither wish nor will permit such deterioration. A town which, since the year 1837, has held so honorable a place as has this in the scale of the Massachusetts Board of Education, cannot think now of forfeiting her claim to such distinguished rank among the other towns of the Commonwealth.

## THE SCHOOLS.

Our public Schools at present afford advantages for the young which are equalled in but few towns of the State. The three regular grades of Primary, Grammar, and High Schools secure, for all the children who will improve the opportunity, the means of a good English and classical education. The subject of another grade of Schools, intermediate between the Primary and the Grammar Schools, was brought to the notice of the citizens by the Committee last year. It was urged in their Report, that pupils are found, and this class must continue to increase, who have come to us from other places and from abroad, having enjoyed no early advantages of education, who are too old to be retained in the Primaries with the smaller children, under the female teachers by whom those Schools are taught through the year; and these must be transferred to the Grammar Schools, in some cases quite unprepared. When this grade is added to our system, pupils may in all cases pass into the Grammar Schools on examination of their qualifications, as they are now admitted from the Grammar Schools to the High School. The number of children registered in the public Schools last year is about one



fifth larger, as will appear from the accompanying tables, than in the year previous. It is gratifying to find that the Schools are so well sustained by the citizens. No private School of any kind is supported here ; and but very few of the children of the town are receiving education in private Schools in other places. Here the young of either sex may follow, for the most part, the studies which they desire, fitting them either for the profession of teacher, for agricultural pursuits, or the mechanic arts ; for the counting-room or the University.

### CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

With two exceptions, the Schools have been taught through the past year by the same teachers as in the year previous. Assistants have been added in two of the Schools. We have the High School, two Grammar Schools, and six Primary Schools ; and of these we are required to report the condition. Examinations have been held, as usual, at the close of each School term, in the months of July, November, and February last.

#### HIGH SCHOOL.

##### *Academy Hill.*

Principal, Mr. John Ruggles, of Brighton.

Assistant, Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton.

##### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	55.	Boys 24 ;	Girls 31.
Belonging at the close,	44.	" 17 ;	" 27.
Present,	35.	" 16 ;	" 19.
Average attendance,	40.		

##### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	41.	Boys 18 ;	Girls 23.
Belonging at the close,	38.	" 18 ;	" 20.
Present,	36.	" 17 ;	" 19.
Average attendance,	40.		

##### *Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	45.	Boys 22 ;	Girls 23.
Belonging at the close,	40.	" 19 ;	" 21.
Present,	37.	" 16 ;	" 21.
Average attendance,	35.		



On the 23d of March, last year, Miss Anna J. George, Assistant for seven years in the Harvard Grammar School, was appointed Assistant in the High School, and entered on her duties on the 31st. Having formerly been a pupil of this institution, and having taught Primary School No. II. with great acceptance nearly four years before instructing in the Grammar School, she came here under favorable auspices, with long experience, and with excellent qualifications for the situation. She instructs classes in the recitation-room. The Principal, a graduate at Cambridge in 1836, first took charge of the School May 3, 1841, and has thus done no small part in moulding the minds and characters of many of the young of this place.

Instruction has been given in the following branches:—in English Grammar and Analysis, Reading, Physical Geography, General History, and History of the United States; in Physiology and Natural Philosophy; in English Literature and Rhetoric; in Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, and Book-keeping; in Penmanship, English Composition, and Declamation; and in the Latin, Greek, and French Languages. At the first examination we found some pupils exercised in the use of Logarithms. We have examined classes instructed by the Principal and by the Assistant, and have discovered the same apparent thoroughness and devotion to their duties which have heretofore distinguished these teachers. A great number of the parents and friends attended the last examination, and were interested in the recitations of the classes, in the declamation, which evinced care and preparation on the part of teacher and pupils, and in the reading of select pieces by the girls, which were well chosen and very correctly read. A valedictory address was read by Harriet G. Duncklee, composed by herself, and delivered in excellent taste and manner. We were likewise presented with neat penmanship and with well-written compositions. Several of the boys are pursuing the studies preparatory for admission to College. Three were admitted at Harvard University at the last Commencement from this School.\* And thus is opportunity afforded here, for all

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\* Students at present in Harvard University from this town are Norton, son of John Norton, in the Junior Class; Warren, son of George W. Warren, in the Sophomore Class; Bigelow, son of Samuel Bigelow, Duncklee, son of Joseph Duncklee, Rice, son of Edmund Rice, Jr., in the Freshman Class. Whittemore,



who would avail themselves of a liberal education, to make the necessary preparation without the expense of private instruction.

The deportment of the pupils — their attendance, punctuality, and progress in study — is signified to the parents at the close of each month, by printed cards sent home by the Principal, to which the name of one of the parents is signed, as evidence that the card has been seen, and the same is returned to the School. The Committee take pleasure in commending the School to the cordial regards of the citizens, as of unspeakable value to the Town in furnishing for all, the poor and rich alike, the means of so good an education ; and they ask the co-operation of all, who have children to be instructed there, with the faithful and accomplished teachers, in promoting the moral and intellectual improvement of the pupils.

The following books have been presented to the High School by the Hon. William S. Damrell, of the 3d Congressional District, Massachusetts : — Patent-Office Report, Mechanics, 1855, 2 vols., and the same for 1856 in 3 vols. ; Smithsonian Report, 1855, and the same for 1856 ; Patent-Office Report, Agriculture, 1856 ; Report on Commerce and Navigation, 1856 ; Report on Commercial Relations, 2 vols. ; Coast Survey Report, 1855 ; U. S. Naval Astronomical Expedition, 2 vols. ; U. S. Japan Expedition under Commodore Perry, 3 vols. ; Explorations for a Railroad Route from the Mississippi to the Pacific, 3 vols. ; Congressional Globe, 1855-56 and 1856-57, and Appendix to do., 6 vols.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Town-Hall, Washington Street.*

Principal, Mr. S. A. Poor, of Brighton.

Assistant, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton.

*First Examination.*

Pupils in the term, 132. Boys 74 ; Girls 58.

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son of Dr. Whittemore, late of this School, holds distinguished rank, as we learn from the official report, as Cadet at West Point. Among the late pupils of the School entered at college, — Baldwin, son of Life Baldwin, of Yale, 1854, is about entering on the practice of law, Boston ; Bigelow, son of Samuel Bigelow, of Harvard University, 1856, is in the Law School, Cambridge ; Fuller, son of Granville Fuller, of Yale and of the Scientific School, Cambridge, is an architect, in Boston ; Warren, son of William Warren, of Harvard University, 1854, has just been admitted at the Suffolk Bar, and is Town Clerk here.



Belonging at the close,	75.	Boys 38 ; Girls 37.
Present,	71.	" 34 ; " 37.
Average attendance,	86.	

*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	107.	Boys 60 ; Girls 47.
Belonging at the close,	101.	" 56 ; " 45.
Present,	86.	" 47 ; " 39.
Average attendance,	80.	

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	125.	Boys 75 ; Girls 50.
Belonging at the close,	118.	" 71 ; " 47.
Present,	90.	" 49 ; " 41.
Average attendance,	98.	

On the 23d of March, last year, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, teacher of Primary School No. V. for nearly nine years, was appointed Assistant in the Harvard Grammar School, in place of Miss George, removed to the High School, and entered upon her duties on the 31st. We commend the general order and discipline of the School ; and have found classes in Spelling, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, in Grammar, Geography, and History, about as accurate, perhaps, as we can reasonably expect among so many, and of such various previous culture and attainments. Several very bright scholars might be specified here, children of our own countrymen and of foreigners.\* Classes

\* In Brighton, the proportion of foreign population is smaller than in the adjoining cities and towns, as shown by the last census. Roxbury leads all, having one foreigner to every 2.570 natives. Brighton has one foreigner to every 3.627 natives. We copy from the late official report of Hon. Francis De Witt, the following facts. The proportion of foreigners decreases as we descend in the table.

	Whole Population.	Foreigners.	Proportion.
Roxbury, . . .	18,469	7,186	2.570
Boston, . . .	160,490	62,093	2.586
Brookline, . . .	3,737	1,320	2.831
West Roxbury, .	4,812	1,622	2.966
Cambridge, . . .	20,473	6,524	3.138
Waltham, . . .	6,049	1,913	3.162
Watertown, . . .	3,578	1,049	3.415
Milton, . . . .	2,656	753	3.528
Somerville, . . .	5,806	1,635	3.551
Brighton, . . .	2,895	798	3.627

Quincy has one foreigner to 3.788 natives ; Newton, one to 3.858 ; Dorchester, one to 3.890 ; West Cambridge, one to 3.960 ; Charlestown, one to 4.202 ; Lexington, one to 4.227 ; Medford, one to 5.315. In Roxbury, as may be seen, the foreigners were, by the last State census, almost one half of the population. Proportion much larger there than in Charlestown, and larger in Brookline than in Brighton.



instructed by the Assistant in the recitation-room failed, for the most part, to speak loud enough, when examined in the large school-room; but their replies to the questions proposed were nearly all correct. Penmanship has been favorably reported; and some attention has been given to Compositions. The first class, numbering twenty-two, spent the last year, together, in preparation for admission to the High School. The teachers have manifested a commendable interest in the welfare of the School; and have successfully exercised together, through the year, their respective gifts, with which we had before been made familiar.

At the last examination, held through the day, an unusually large number of the friends of the School were present. The pupils presented to the Principal three elegantly bound octavo volumes, — the poetical works of Shakespeare, Milton, and Scott. One of their number, George Howe, spoke very fitting words to the teacher in the presentation, to which he affectionately replied. He took charge of this School September 28, 1847. We are glad to record these tokens of good feeling between teachers and pupils. They have not been unknown among us before. In the Report for the year 1852 may be found a notice of the presentation by the pupils of the High School to their teacher, Mr. Ruggles, of a valuable edition of Shakespeare in eight volumes, octavo; and in the Report of 1853 is noticed the presentation by the pupils of Primary No. I. to their teacher, Miss Duncklee, of a gold watch; and other similar instances of friendliness and generosity in our Schools are remembered.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*North Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Mr. John D. Marston, of Parsonsfield, Me.

### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	50.	Boys 28; Girls 22.
Belonging at the close,	33.	“ 15; “ 18.
Present,	30.	“ 13; “ 17.
Average attendance,	37.	

### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	44.	Boys 20; Girls 24.
Belonging at the close,	39.	“ 16; “ 23.



Present,	34.	Boys 13; Girls 21.
Average attendance,	36.	

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	61.	Boys 34; Girls 27.
Belonging at the close,	61.	" 34; " 27.
Present,	51.	" 24; " 27.
Average attendance,	52.	

This School is larger than ever. As may be seen, sixty-one pupils belonged at the close of the last term, and fifty-one were present at the examination. The population increases on the streets adjacent to this school-house. When it was commenced, some feared there would not be pupils enough to justify its erection. We have just found one hundred and forty-one pupils registered within its walls. The teacher of the Second Grammar School has been very successful through this his third year of service. At the first examination, three of the five members of the Committee were present, and at the last examination, the full Board; and all expressed themselves much gratified with the improvement made, and with the general appearance of the School.

The penmanship here is worthy of much commendation. A set of more beautiful and better written books, we believe, cannot be found in a Grammar School in or around the city. The teacher has encouraged proficiency in this department; and, to stimulate all, he has offered prizes for those two who should make the greatest improvement in writing, the past year. The writing-books were submitted to Mr. Matchett, of the Committee, (himself an accomplished penman, if his colleagues may say so,) and he, on careful examination, awarded the prizes to Francis L. Smith, of the first class of writers, and to Ellen E. Porter, of the third, as the two who had made the greatest improvement.

At the last examination, held through the day, the exercises were begun with a salutatory address, very correctly spoken, by Charles B. Cushing. Some very excellent specimens of map-drawing, and of writing in German text, were exhibited on sheets and on the blackboard. Original compositions were read; and some, by those who had been long in the School and were now



about to leave, very creditable both to their minds and hearts. A large company of the friends of the School attended the examination.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. I.

*North Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Sophia A. Bacon, of Harvard.

Assistant, Miss Maria C. Rice, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. F. H. Coolidge.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	78.	Boys 42 ;	Girls 36.
Belonging at the close,	76.	" 41 ;	" 35.
Present,	70.	" 38 ;	" 32.
Average attendance,	65.		

#### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	81.	Boys 43 ;	Girls 38.
Belonging at the close,	80.	" 43 ;	" 37.
Present,	73.	" 39 ;	" 34.
Average attendance,	65.		

#### *Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	80.	Boys 43 ;	Girls 37.
Belonging at the close,	80.	" 43 ;	" 37.
Present,	71.	" 36 ;	" 35.
Average attendance,	66.		

Miss Bacon has taught here the last five years. Miss Dunklee, her predecessor, had taught the six years previous. Thus through eleven successive years the School has been under the charge of but two teachers. Its good condition now is owing in part, doubtless, to the fact that it has been subject to so few changes. More credit has been given at the examinations to the exercises in Arithmetic and Geography than in Reading, and more than to the general stillness. Several pupils were not once absent during the longest term. Pleasant singing, and generally shared. The unusual interest manifested by the parents and friends of the pupils has helped this School much. As may be seen, it has been very large. Miss Rice was engaged as Assistant one week, as the health of the teacher was impaired by her



labors. A permanent Assistant must be had here now. Of eighty belonging, seventy-three were present at the last examination. Few teachers could have done so well as Miss Bacon with that number.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. II.

*School Street.*

Teacher, Miss Mary Jane Kimball, of Topsfield.

Prudential Committee, Mr. W. A. Brabiner.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	73.	Boys 41 ;	Girls 32.
Belonging at the close,	70.	" 39 ;	" 31.
Present,	49.	" 26 ;	" 23.
Average attendance,	56.		

#### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	79.	Boys 48 ;	Girls 31.
Belonging at the close,	76.	" 47 ;	" 29.
Present,	70.	" 42 ;	" 28.
Average attendance,	69.		

#### *Third Examination.*

Omitted. (Teacher sick.)

On a recent visit to the School we found,—

Pupils in the term,	79.	Boys 45 ;	Girls 34.
Belonging at the close,	77.	" 44 ;	" 33.
Present,	70.	" 41 ;	" 29.
Average attendance,	72.		

The third largest Primary School of the town. At the first examination we marked the exercises generally correct, while some were of uncommon merit. At the second examination the recitations were more commendable than the order. The teacher, from ill health, was obliged to leave the School a week or two before the close of the last term, and the examination was omitted. She began here in May, 1855. The writing-books, as a whole, do not quite satisfy us ; but in some of them we see improvement. Really too many pupils for one teacher. This evil remedied for the future by the services of an assistant, the School promises to rank high among the Primaries. The building is new and large, with play-ground in the cellar for pupils in stormy weather ; and most things pertaining to a good school are here provided.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. III.

*Corner of Washington and Faneuil Streets.*

Teacher, Miss Ellen Harris, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. William Champney.

*First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	71.	Boys 37 ;	Girls 34.
Belonging at the close,	55.	" 31 ;	" 24.
Present,	47.	" 24 ;	" 23.
Average attendance,	38.		

*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	49.	Boys 25 ;	Girls 24.
Belonging at the close,	46.	" 23 ;	" 23.
Present,	42.	" 22 ;	" 20.
Average attendance,	35.		

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	54.	Boys 29 ;	Girls 25.
Belonging at the close,	49.	" 25 ;	" 24.
Present,	38.	" 21 ;	" 17.
Average attendance,	39.		

This School sustains essentially the good character which was reported last year. It has seldom numbered over fifty pupils, and the teacher has been able to give to all due attention. She began here December 3d, 1855. During the first term of the past year, indeed, seventy-one different names had been entered on the Register ; but only fifty-five remained at the close of the term. The order and stillness we must again report as the most remarkable we have ever witnessed in any school, in town or elsewhere. Some pupils in Arithmetic are much advanced. Reading and spelling uncommonly good. Pleasant exercises in singing and declamation. Writing-books fair. The teacher being one of the best writers we have known, her copies set at the top of the page will make the penmanship of any children look inferior. At the last examination, Mr. Greig, a native of Scotland, of the firm of George Greig & Co., Boston, expressed himself very much gratified with the appearance of the School. His children are pupils, and it was the first opportunity he had had of visiting any of the public schools of this country.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. IV.

*Academy Hill.*

Teacher, Miss Catharine Stearns, of Lancaster.

Assistants, Miss Isabella F. Collins, and Miss Mary E. Wellman,  
both of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. David Collins.

*First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	114.	Boys 52 ;	Girls 62.
Belonging at the close,	107.	“ 48 ;	“ 59.
Present,	101.	“ 45 ;	“ 56.
Average attendance,	90.		

*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	101.	Boys 45 ;	Girls 56.
Belonging at the close,	93.	“ 39 ;	“ 54.
Present,	90.	“ 37 ;	“ 53.
Average attendance,	84.		

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	93.	Boys 39 ;	Girls 54.
Belonging at the close,	92.	“ 39 ;	“ 53.
Present,	89.	“ 38 ;	“ 51.
Average attendance,	81.		

We have found here ample fruits of the faithful labors of a good teacher expended for the last two years and a quarter. Through the last year an assistant has been employed. Miss Collins taught the first term, and Miss Wellman the last two ; both leaving our High School to enter on their duties here. Miss Stearns had charge of the School, moreover, from December, 1847, to March, 1851, and has thus taught it in all five years and a half. She is remarkably well qualified for the management and instruction of children. Some exercises here, in Colburn's Oral Arithmetic, in Geography, in reading and spelling, we have never seen surpassed, and rarely equalled, in the Primary Schools. We commend the pleasant singing, the speaking of dialogues, the youthful specimens of drawing and penmanship, the admirable system, and especially the animation which these children manifest in their exercises. We observe here much interest in the work ; and, as in other things, so essentially in school-keeping, that is one of the surest pledges of success.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. V.

*Shepard Street.*

Teachers, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton, Miss Mary F. Mathews, of Woolwich, Me., and Miss Mary Jane Hall, of Cambridge.

Prudential Committee, Mr. William Livermore.

*First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	61.	Boys 42 ;	Girls 19.
Belonging at the close,	60.	" 42 ;	" 18.
Present,	42.	" 28 ;	" 14.
Average attendance,	50.		

*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	59.	Boys 40 ;	Girls 19.
Belonging at the close,	59.	" 40 ;	" 19.
Present,	50.	" 31 ;	" 19.
Average attendance,	54.		

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	63.	Boys 40 ;	Girls 23.
Belonging at the close,	62.	" 40 ;	" 22.
Present,	58.	" 36 ;	" 22.
Average attendance,	53.		

Miss Waugh, who had taught this School, most acceptably and uninterruptedly, since May, 1848, left it in March last, a faithful service of almost ten years, to become assistant in the Harvard Grammar School. Miss Mathews succeeded her, and taught until the close of the second term, and Miss Hall has been employed during the last term. Thus, with these several changes, the School has lost ground. The absence of eighteen pupils at the first examination, as shown above, was on account of a severe rain-storm. Miss Hall, who came here with some experience as teacher of a private School in Cambridge, has made a very good beginning. We have noticed a decided improvement in several particulars ; and believe she promises to become one of our most successful teachers. The want of further accommodations was presented to the Town in the last Report. A new building for this growing School will soon be required.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. VI.

*Allston Street, near Beacon.*

Teachers, Miss Mary E. Smart, of Brighton, and Mrs. Caroline E.  
D. Mansfield, of Portland.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Lewis Daily.

*First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	41.	Boys 20 ;	Girls 21.
Belonging at the close,	36.	" 19 ;	" 17.
Present,	28.	" 12 ;	" 16.
Average attendance,	23.		

*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	35.	Boys 19 ;	Girls 16.
Belonging at the close,	35.	" 19 ;	" 16.
Present,	29.	" 14 ;	" 15.
Average attendance,	24.		

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	40.	Boys 24 ;	Girls 16.
Belonging at the close,	40.	" 24 ;	" 16.
Present,	39.	" 24 ;	" 15.
Average attendance,	36.		

This School was under the charge of Miss Smart during the first and second terms, and of Mrs. Mansfield during the third term. Miss Smart, with very good qualifications as a scholar, hardly gained the necessary control of the pupils which, with more years and experience, she might acquire. At the second examination we found that a little girl of five years of age had not been once absent during the term. A class in Colburn's Arithmetic was commended by the Committee as appearing as well as any class *in the same portion of the book* in any of our Primary Schools. This remark was unfortunately misunderstood, so as to be reported as the Committee's judgment "that the School passed as good an examination as any one of the Primaries." We hope the School may one day be entitled to so much praise, though it is not as yet. The present teacher, with several years' experience in the work elsewhere, seems likely to fulfil the just expectations of all concerning the School. At the last examination all the Committee and a very large company of



the friends of the pupils were present. We noticed improvement in the writing-books, in the recitations, and general order of the School, and in the care of school property. Number of the pupils larger. One only absent, and she sick. Five not once absent during the term; five absent but half a day; and five but one day. A school song, composed by the teacher, and most happily expressed, was sung by the pupils in the tune of "Happy Land."

## PAST APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statement is returned by the Secretary of the Board, of the expenditure for teachers' wages and for fuel. The incidental expenses for Schools are reckoned apart from wages and fuel. It will be seen that the amount expended for wages and fuel exceeds the sum appropriated by the Town, together with the Town's portion of the State School Fund, by \$ 96.16. On explanation it will appear that the Committee, instead of exceeding for the year the sum granted, have really fallen short of that grant in their expenditure. They have laid in coal to last through the Spring, having in some former seasons been obliged to purchase it at an advanced price, after March. In nearly all the Schools there is now coal on hand sufficient to last till warm weather. Thus the amount of coal charged is really for fifteen months instead of twelve. Moreover, a portion of the coal which is charged to the Harvard Grammar School is used for warming the Town-Hall, the same furnace heating both. And thus the expenses for wages and fuel for the past twelve months have been kept considerably below the amount appropriated by the Town and increased by their portion of the State School Fund, which must be used for School purposes.

Town appropriation for wages and fuel,	\$ 5,300.00
From the State School Fund,	124.74
	<u>\$ 5,424.74</u>

Paid for teachers' wages: —

John Ruggles, Principal of the High School,	\$ 1,200.00
Anna J. George, Assistant of do.,	300.00
S. A. Poor, Principal of Harvard Grammar School,	800.00
Sarah E. Waugh, Assistant of do. (salary, \$ 300),	276.92
Amount carried forward,	<u>2,576.92</u>



Amount brought forward,	\$ 2,576.92
John D. Marston, Principal of Second Grammar School,	750.00
Sophia A. Bacon, of Primary No. I., 43 weeks,	258.00
Maria C. Rice, Assistant of do., 1 week,	3.00
Mary J. Kimball, of Primary No. II., 42 weeks,	252.00
Ellen Harris, of Primary No. III., 44 weeks,	242.00
Catharine Stearns, of Primary No. IV., 44 weeks,	264.00
Isabella F. Collins, Assistant of do., 18 weeks,	54.00
Mary E. Wellman, Assistant of do., 25 weeks,	75.00
Sarah E. Waugh, of Primary No. V., $2\frac{1}{2}$ weeks,	13.75
Mary F. Mathews, of Primary No. V., 28 weeks,	140.00
Mary Jane Hall, of Primary No. V., 12 weeks,	66.00
Mary E. Smart, of Primary No. VI., 30 weeks,	135.00
Mrs. C. E. D. Mansfield, of Primary No. VI., 13 weeks,	58.50
Total amount paid for wages,	\$ 4,888.17

Paid for fuel: —

*Primary No. I. (including Second Grammar School).*

Coal, $27\frac{14}{100}$ tons, . . . . .	\$ 187.94
Charcoal, \$ 21.67 ; kindlings, \$ 3, . . . . .	24.67
Screening ashes, . . . . .	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 215.61

*Primary No. II.*

Coal, $4\frac{13}{100}$ tons, . . . . .	\$ 27.88
Charcoal, \$ 4 ; kindlings, \$ 1, . . . . .	5.00
	<hr/>
	32.88

*Primary No. III.*

Coal, $5\frac{65}{100}$ tons, . . . . .	\$ 38.89
Charcoal, . . . . .	4.62
	<hr/>
	43.51

*Primary No. IV. (including the High School).*

Coal, $13\frac{70}{100}$ tons, . . . . .	\$ 93.23
Charcoal, . . . . .	32.66
	<hr/>
	125.89

*Primary No. V.*

Coal, $2\frac{335}{1000}$ tons, . . . . .	\$ 15.76
Putting in coal, \$ 0.58 ; charcoal, \$ 3.33, . . . . .	3.91
	<hr/>
	19.67

*Primary No. VI.*

Coal, $2\frac{23}{100}$ tons, . . . . .	\$ 15.05
Putting in coal, \$ 0.56 ; charcoal, \$ 5, . . . . .	5.56
Kindlings, . . . . .	4.50
	<hr/>
	25.11

Amount carried forward, . . . . .	462.67
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Amount brought forward, \$ 462.67

*Harvard Grammar School (including all fuel for Town-Hall).*

Coal, 19 $\frac{19.5}{1000}$  tons, . . . \$ 135.07

Charcoal, \$ 31.67 ; kindlings, \$ 3.32, . . . 34.99

170.06

Total amount paid for fuel, \$ 632.73

In the Treasurer's Report, the fuel amounts to \$ 638.98. The difference, \$ 6.25, is in two bills of 1856, which we had entered last year, but which were too late to appear in his last Report, — one of \$ 4, from No. II., and one of \$ 2.25, from No. VI.

Paid for incidental School expenses, including repairs on School-houses, care of fires and School-rooms, compensation to Committees, printing Report and Notices, books to destitute children, &c., as returned in the Treasurer's Report (\$ 33.75 here included which was sent in too late for his Report this year), \$ 1,006.25

Total amount paid for wages, . . . . . 4,888.17

“ “ “ fuel, . . . . . 632.73

Total expended for all School purposes last year, \$ 6,527.15

The following table shows what amount has been expended since 1840 - 41 for wages and fuel, compensation to Committees, and, since 1848 - 49, the total for all School purposes : —

Year.	Wages and Fuel.	Prudential Committee.	General Committee.	For all School Purposes.
1840 - 41	\$ 1,040.08	. .	\$ 79.00	
1841 - 42	1,954.83	. .	101.00	
1842 - 43	1,958.94	\$ 40	58.00	
1843 - 44	1,994.65	40	85.00	
1844 - 45	1,905.28	40	75.00	
1845 - 46	1,730.05	40	75.00	
1846 - 47	2,058.09	60	75.00	
1847 - 48	2,374.17	60	80.00	
1848 - 49	2,731.66	60	74.00	\$ 3,745.10
1849 - 50	3,176.89	60	92.50	3,731.49
1850 - 51	3,244.14	60	120.00	4,017.75
1851 - 52	3,517.63	60	90.00	4,083.79
1852 - 53	3,595.18	60	70.00	4,080.38
1853 - 54	3,978.16	60	80.00	13,349.03
1854 - 55	4,272.29	60	102.00	5,068.08
1855 - 56	4,259.93	60	146.08	10,265.25
1856 - 57	4,899.41	60	125.00	16,347.61
1857 - 58	5,520.90	60	141.00	6,527.15



## SCHOOL-CHILDREN.

The number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the first day of May last by the Assessors according to law, was 550, — males 281, females 269. Some under five and over fifteen attend school. But these ages are assumed for convenience by the Massachusetts Board of Education in their yearly calculations, and so certified to their Secretary annually by the School Committee of each town. The following table shows the number registered the last term in each School, and the number belonging and present in each at the closing examination; also, the average attendance for each term.

1857-58, — 550 children between five and fifteen.

	Registered.	Belonging.	Present.	1st Term.	AVERAGE. 2d Term.	3d Term.
H. S.	45	40	37	40	40	35
H. G. S.	125	118	90	86	80	98
S. G. S.	61	61	51	37	36	52
No. I.	80	80	71	65	65	66
“ II.	79	77	70	56	69	72
“ III.	54	49	38	38	35	39
“ IV.	93	92	89	90	84	81
“ V.	63	62	58	50	54	53
“ VI.	40	40	39	23	24	36
	<u>640</u>	<u>619</u>	<u>543</u>	<u>485</u>	<u>487</u>	<u>532</u>

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

From the above table it will be seen that, out of 619 pupils belonging in the public schools at the late examinations, 76 were absent. In the previous year, out of 558 belonging, 72 were absent. Four more absences for 61 more pupils. A better attendance last year than in the year before. The Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, in his late Annual Report, has again classed all the towns of the Commonwealth in a table, ranking them according to the average attendance of their children on the public schools. The town in which the children attend most regularly he marks No. 1; the town in which they attend least regularly, No. 332, which is the whole number of towns in the Commonwealth. This rank is found by dividing the mean average attendance in every town, which is, each year, certified to him from the Committee, by the number of children



in each town between five and fifteen, and expressing the ratio in decimals.

By his Report of January last, Brighton stands 81st among the 332 towns. That is, in 80 towns the average attendance is better than here; in 251 towns it is not so good. Of the 80 towns showing a better attendance, only two or three are within ten miles of us. The others are rural towns remote from cities. Cambridge stands 87th; West Roxbury, 139th; Somerville, 166th; Boston, 181st; Medford, 202d; Quincy, 204th; Newton, 213th; Charlestown, 227th; West Cambridge, 241st; Concord, 242d; Waltham, 255th; Salem, 278th; Taunton, 296th.

In the Secretary's table of the previous year, the rank of this town for average attendance was 108th, among all the towns of the State.

## TOWN'S RANK AS TO ITS APPROPRIATION.

We find, as usual, in the Secretary's Report, a tabular list of the 332 towns of the Commonwealth, showing their relative liberality for Schools. His Report just made is based on the appropriations of 1856. Those of 1857 do not go to him till next month. He divides the sum which each town then raised for the support of Schools by the number of children between five and fifteen, and sets down the amount which would thus be allowed for each child. Nahant stands at the head; her appropriation of \$ 1,200, with only 67 children, allowing to each child \$ 17.91. Bernardston stands lowest in the scale; her appropriation of \$ 320 for 230 children allowing to each child \$ 1.52. Brookline stands 2d, raising \$ 9,983, allowing to each \$ 17.36; Boston, 13th, raising \$ 254,558.09, with 28,879 children, to each, \$ 8.81; Brighton, 15th, to each child \$ 8.58; Charlestown, 22d, raising \$ 35,000, with 4,518 children, to each \$ 7.74; Concord, 31st, raising \$ 3,500, with 499 children, to each \$ 7.01; Waltham, 32d, raising \$ 6,750, with 965 children, to each, \$ 6.99; Quincy, 51st, raising \$ 7,865, with 1,301 children, to each \$ 6.04; Salem, 61st, raising \$ 22,815.48, with 4,010 children, to each \$ 5.69; Taunton, 119th, raising \$ 14,000, with 3,088 children, to each \$ 4.53.

The following table will mark from year to year the town's



progress in population, number, and appropriation for support of Schools, and the town's rank among all the towns of the Commonwealth.

Year.	Population.	No. of Public Schools.	School- Children.	Appropriation for Wages and Fuel.	Rank in the State.
1837	1,337	4	337	1,000	
1838 - 39	"	4	338	1,200	
1839 - 40	"	4	323	1,200	
1840 - 41	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841 - 42	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842 - 43	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843 - 44	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844 - 45	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845 - 46	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846 - 47	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847 - 48	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848 - 49	"	9	496	2,700	11
1849 - 50	2,356	9	452	3,100	8
1850 - 51	"	9	402	3,500	3
1851 - 52	"	9	445	3,500	6
1852 - 53	"	9	455	3,500	11
1853 - 54	"	9	475	3,900	9
1854 - 55	"	9	500	3,900	10
1855 - 56	2,895	9	612	4,200	25
1856 - 57	"	9	587	4,800	15
1857 - 58	"	9	550	5,300	
1858 - 59	"	9	*	5,500	

## SCHOOL TERMS, VACATIONS, AND EXAMINATIONS.

The present school year extends from the first Monday of March, 1858 (1st day), to the last Monday of February, 1859 (28th day). It is divided into three school terms. During the last week of each term the Committee will visit and examine every School. There are eight weeks of vacation, and the following days are prescribed holidays: Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, first day of January, Washington's birthday, Fast-day, May-day, Independence, Commencement, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The school year begins with a vacation of one week. The first term commences on the 2d Monday of March (8th day), and extends to the 4th Monday of July (26th day),

\* To be ascertained in May.



comprising twenty weeks. A vacation of five weeks follows. The second term commences on the 5th Monday of August (30th day), and extends to the 4th Monday of November (22d day), comprising twelve weeks. A vacation of one week follows. The third term commences on the 5th Monday of November (29th day), and extends to the last Monday of February, 1859 (28th day), comprising thirteen weeks.

A recess of one week occurs in the long term, beginning with the 4th Monday of May (24th day), and extending to the 5th Monday of May (31st day). This recess makes up the eight weeks of vacation. It is not considered as ending a term. When the recess begins, the school registers are not to be closed up, as they are before each vacation.

The quarter salaries of teachers are payable on the 1st day of June, September, December, 1858, and 26th day of February, 1859. The weekly compensation of teachers is to be paid at the close of each school term, — on the 4th Saturday of July (24th day), on the 3d Saturday of November (20th day), and on the 4th Saturday of February, 1859 (26th day).

## APPROPRIATION FOR WAGES AND FUEL.

In two of the Primary Schools, assistant teachers will be needed the present year. In No. I. we have just found eighty pupils belonging, and seventy-one present. In No. II. we found seventy-one belonging, and seventy present. These numbers will be somewhat lessened now, by taking out pupils for the Grammar Schools. But it remains to be seen whether the children to be entered for the first time will not equal the number to be withdrawn. As the population of the town and the amount of taxable property increases from year to year, it seems reasonable that some addition be made to the appropriation for this great interest of the town, the cause of education. Only by keeping up with the progressive spirit of the age, by offering to all the youth of the town, the poor and the rich alike, the means of education which the times demand, can we discharge our whole duty towards the young, or invite families from abroad to come and settle with us.

The Committee recommend that five thousand five hundred



dollars (\$5,500) be raised and appropriated for teachers' wages and for fuel for the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted,

In behalf of the Committee,

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	} <i>Superintending</i>
THEODORE MATCHETT,	
EDMUND RICE, JR.,	

*School Committee.*

*Brighton, March 8, 1858.*

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*Brighton, March 8, 1858.*

In Town Meeting, read, accepted, and ordered to be printed.

Attest, WILLIAM WIRT WARREN, *Town Clerk.*

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At the Town Meeting, \$5,500 was appropriated for wages and fuel, as recommended, and the following Committee was chosen under the new statute regulating elections for the same: — Frederic A. Whitney, for three years; Theodore Matchett, for two years; William Wirt Warren, for one year.

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## PUBLIC LECTURES.

A Course of Lectures has been given at the Town-Hall weekly, as usual, the past winter, as follows: —

December 22d, by Professor C. C. Felton, of Cambridge, on "Rational Explanation of Modern Spiritual Phenomena"; by Howard Tileston, Esq., of Boston, "Readings from Shakespeare"; by Dr. H. F. Gardner, of Boston, on "Spiritualism"; by Henry L. Walker, Esq., of Boston, on "Burns"; by Mrs. Barrow, of Boston, "Readings"; by Rev. William R. Alger, of Boston, on "The Character of Dr. Kane"; by Rev. J. F. W. Ware, of Cambridgeport, on "Evenings at Home"; by Henry A. Martin, M.D., of Roxbury, on "Ancient Medical Delusions"; by Rev. James Freeman Clarke, of Boston, on "The Yankee Character"; by Ira D. Van Duzee, Esq., of Boston, on "Our Times and Our Men"; by Arthur Gilman, Esq., of Boston, March 1st, on "Characteristics of New England Humor."



TWENTY-FIRST

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1858-59.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
WELCH, BIGELOW, AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1859.







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1859.



THE printing of the School Report is hereafter to be required of every town in the State, by the following Act : —

*“ Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows : —*

*“ The School Committee of each Town shall print the Annual Report, now required by law, in octavo pamphlet form, of the size of the Annual Reports of the Board of Education, and transmit two copies thereof to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.”*

Approved February 23, 1859.

Hitherto the printing of the Report has been left by the statute discretionary with the Committee. And from some towns it has continued until now to be sent in manuscript to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. In this town the Report has been printed, each year, since 1839 — 40, inclusive. At that time, and for several years later, but few towns printed. The first Secretary of the Board of Education, Hon. Horace Mann, it may be remembered, published his first Annual Report with the first Annual Report of the Board, in January, 1838. The printing of our Town Auditor's Annual Report was commenced in 1841. A set of the School and of the Auditors' Reports is on file for the use of the School Committee, — wanting of the former those printed in 1844 and 1846, and of the latter those of 1842 and 1843. Any one having, and not wishing to retain those copies, will confer a favor by sending them to the Chairman of the Board.



# R E P O R T .

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THE School Committee of Brighton respectfully submit to the citizens their Twenty-First Annual Report, for the year 1858 - 59.

## OUR SCHOOLS.

The advantages afforded by our various Schools have been furnished to the school-children of the town, through another year, at an average expense of about eleven dollars for each child. That is, the Primary, the Grammar, and the High Schools, with all their means and opportunities for improvement, have been open for a whole year, to all the children seeking them, according as they were qualified for one or another School, at an average expense per child of less than twenty-five cents each week. Teachers' wages and fuel, repairs on the school-houses, the care and supervision of buildings and schools, the printing and circulating of school documents, together with text-books to such needy children as, in the judgment of the School Committee and Assessors, should receive them, — this all has been furnished for the above-named average sum. By your willing appropriations, you have provided the means of instruction in the very elements of learning for the youngest, and in the highest studies pursued in the public schools of the State for the most advanced pupils, — from the alphabet of our own tongue, to instruction in the Latin, Greek, and French languages, — at an average cost for each of twenty-five cents per week. For this, you have secured advantages



for your children, which, if faithfully improved by them, would entirely supersede the necessity, on your part, of expending one dollar for private instruction, in order to qualify either your sons for admission to the University, or for agricultural, mechanical, commercial pursuits, or your daughters for any station to which woman is called, unless it be to give them those ornamental accomplishments which public schools do not as yet furnish.

Can we, then, rightfully complain at what we pay for what we receive? In what private schools could you secure advantages at all equal to these at the same cost? And would not every wise parent desire that all reasonable opportunities and privileges for education, enjoyed elsewhere, should be ready here for his own children, should they wish to improve them? Experience has shown with what little certainty we can predict, in this country, from what ranks and conditions of society are to arise the men whose influence shall be most felt in the welfare of the State. No parent can say, I do not require for my children the means of a thorough and advanced education, for they will never be called to exercise this culture. He knows not the stations and relations in life which they may fill. But he must know that all their attainments in useful knowledge, all the wise culture of their powers, through a generous education, will be, to them, a permanent and inherent good. It will prepare them to fill, successfully, any station. It will, itself, exalt them in the scale of being. It will cause children, when their parents have departed this life, to rise up and call them blessed, through the good institutions of learning which they generously maintained and transmitted.

And thus, obviously, the cause of the public Schools is made matter of common interest to us all. All the members of the community must feel the benefit, if they are prospered, liberally sustained, encouraged, wisely counselled. All must experience, in some degree, the evil and the shame, if they suffer, either through want of means to maintain the average standard reached in places about us, or through want of generous sympathy and co-operation between the



Schools and the homes of the people. We are called by every consideration of public and private prosperity and happiness, by our hopes for the young, by our security and welfare and good name as a civil community, to provide amply and carefully for the public Schools. We are to remunerate generously the wearing labors of all faithful teachers, for here, as elsewhere, that great law of political economy holds true, that, in the long run, the best thing comes for the best pay. We are to strive to remedy defects, to watch for improvements, alike in the internal management of the Schools and in the arrangement of buildings and apparatus, that our Schools may best accomplish their purpose in the thorough training of the young among us, and invite further settlements within our borders.

### COMMITTEE.

These common and important interests you have confided to your Committee, who are called at the close of another municipal year to report their doings, and the condition of the Schools. While sensible that much yet remains to be done towards perfecting our educational system and improving the schools, they have yet found ample encouragements in the duties of the past year. They are sure that no school is in a worse condition than it was at the opening of the year. They think every school has, on the whole, improved somewhat. Of course there has been more improvement in some than in others. The Committee have endeavored to keep themselves informed of the condition of each School by stated examinations, by casual visits, by inquiry and conference. They have tried to listen patiently to all complaints which have met them, either as they have walked in the way or ridden in the car, at home or abroad, — when they have wished to lie down, or shortly after they have risen up. The very qualities which in one or another teacher are by some disapproved, have by others been particularly commended. The same measures adopted by your Committee, the same methods pursued by them, or by the teachers, have been made to the Committee subjects of praise and of censure.



But this is not strange, where there are some five or six hundred children, of various dispositions, capacities, habits, and humors, to be dealt with, some one or two hundred pairs of parents, a great many kind aunts, and some affectionate grandparents, all of whom are deeply interested in the Schools. The only true course, in such apparent embarrassment, is to suppose that all are alike honest; to allow to all right motives and purposes in the expression of their views and wishes; to endeavor, as far as possible, to reconcile conflicting opinions and statements; and especially to bid a hearty welcome to such as would like themselves to administer the duties of this office, — to wish them a patient, tranquil, and successful administration, and a happy issue at last out of all its trials.

### TEACHERS AND THEIR WORK.

Eighteen Teachers have been employed during the past year in the Primary, Grammar, and High Schools. In two Schools only has any change been made from the previous year, — in Primaries No. I. and II. In both these instances the change was occasioned by no dissatisfaction, but by reason of the sickness of the teachers, two of whom had labored long and successfully in their places. Of the teachers, six were natives of this town. The several periods of service of all are embraced within the limits of eighteen years, the longest, and three months, the time since the last appointment. We believe they have all endeavored to fulfil faithfully their trusts. That they have all been equally successful, would be as wrong to affirm as it were unreasonable to expect. The essential qualifications for their office are blended in these eighteen teachers in various proportions.

The teacher's work is twofold. It implies something to be imparted to the pupils from the teacher's superior knowledge and experience, from books, from outward stores, — and moreover the development of their own powers and thoughts. The latter is the more difficult part, and more rare result. The word Education, indeed, in its strict significance, implies development, the bringing forth of the mind



rather than the bare storing it with outward acquisitions. All intellectual knowledge attained from without is of little worth, unless it becomes incorporated with the mind, — unless it excites thought, and there lives, not dead, but bearing new fruits. Every precept, every truth, should, through earnestness and affection in the teacher, be employed rather to awaken and strengthen, than to store the mind and heart of the child. This, though often and eloquently urged, is still too little heeded. To lead the pupil to think and inquire, we have ever insisted, is more worth than to communicate, passively on his part, many important truths. Words and truths, books and maps, the teacher must use as means, and not as ends. And thus a simple question should often make a lecture, and the lesson for the day, measured in the book by lines, should open in the pupil's mind a broader page. "Now I teach my little child, and then he teaches me," said an old philosopher. The teacher will sometimes be taught, if rightly he teaches. Is not this the true idea of education, which we should all strive to make prominent, — to awaken and exercise the native powers, while imparting knowledge, — not simply to pour in, not to create faculties, but to develop, direct, strengthen the faculties God has given, and to make the truths and facts dealt with in books, on charts and slates, abiding realities to the child, by thus stirring the soil wherein they may bear continually ampler fruit?

Now, in this part of the teacher's work, — the more difficult, we have called it, — we hope our teachers may be encouraged by parents, and by all the culture of home, more and more to excel.

### SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The town may feel an honest pride in its School-houses. Nearly twenty-four thousand dollars, we find, have been expended, since the year 1846, on repairs and care of School-houses, and on new buildings. The result has been that the town compares most favorably, in this respect, with other cities and towns in the Commonwealth. With only two exceptions, the Primary School-houses are all new and spa-



cious, with the best modern furniture. Should you accede to the recommendation of your Committee, to be presently offered, for the erection of a new School-house for Primary No. V., we shall henceforth make but one exception. That exception is Primary School-house No. VI., on Allston Street, which, though not of very modern construction, is yet all-sufficient for the number of pupils ; pleasantly located, in excellent repair, neat and commodious, and provided with the modern school-chairs. The High School-house and the Second Grammar School-house are among the finest buildings which have been lately erected about Boston. The Harvard Grammar School-house, the second story of the Town Hall, is a spacious room, with convenient recitation-room for the Assistant Teacher, but too low-studded, and located in too public a place, and subject to frequent interruptions from the hall above and from the basement. But, taking all the School-houses together, we are confident that few if any other towns in the State would show so large a proportion of new and approved edifices.

We must report Primary School-house No. V., on Shepard Street, as insufficient for the wants of that growing section. The pupils crowd the room beyond the bounds of health and comfort. The building is out of repair, — and repairs upon it were deferred last year, on the ground that it would be unwise economy to make them. We think the time has fully come when a new Primary School-house should be erected here.

The lot on which the present building stands is almost too small for a new house. Directly in front of it lies another lot, but little larger, bordering on Washington Street. If this lot could be procured, and the building set about midway between the two, ample space would be had for the house and for a play-ground, and the town would then command the main street (Washington), on which the house should front. If a new building were crowded on the present small lot, scarcely space sufficient would be allowed for out-buildings, or for a play-ground, and the house would have a far less favorable front on Shepard Street. The Committee, having



examined the premises, were unanimous in the opinion that the town should own the front lot, both for the present wants of the School, and as a profitable investment in so central a neighborhood, should the School division lines be hereafter altered with the changes in population, and the building be removed.

The Committee recommend that a School-house of about the size of No. III., on the corner of Washington and Faneuil Streets, be erected forthwith for this School. The house above named was built in 1855, is most neat and attractive in its exterior, and, with some slight modifications in the interior, may serve as a model for Schools of this grade. It is believed that a building as commodious and handsome may be erected at less cost now than in 1855.

So urgent is the need of a new building, and so important do your Committee regard it that a larger lot should be procured, either by purchase, or in part by exchange of the present lot, that they submit for the action of the town the following Resolution:—

“*Resolved*, That a Committee be chosen to take into consideration the subject of erecting a building for Primary School No. V., and of purchasing the lot in front of the present building, or some other lot in the vicinity, and to report the cost of the same at a town-meeting in April next.”

## CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

The condition of each School is to be presented to you, the names and term of service of each Teacher, the number of pupils entered, and average attendance, each term, the number belonging and present at the close of each term, with an account of the several examinations which have been held according to law.

The Committee are happy to report, that at no previous period in their experience have all the Schools together appeared so well as on the last survey. Of no single School do they feel obliged to report, to-day, that it has lost ground, gone backward. Last year, as may be seen, they were obliged so to report. Public examinations have been held,



as usual, at the close of each School term, — in the months of July, November, and February last.

## ENGLISH AND CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL.

### *Academy Hill.*

Principal, Mr. John Ruggles, of Brighton.

Assistant, Miss Anna J. George, of Brighton.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	68.	Boys, 31 ;	Girls, 37.
Belonging at the close,	40.	" 22 ;	" 18.
Present,	28.	" 15 ;	" 13.
Average attendance,	46.		

#### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	55.	Boys, 26 ;	Girls, 29.
Belonging at the close,	49.	" 24 ;	" 25.
Present,	44.	" 21 ;	" 23.
Average attendance,	42.		

#### *Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	57.	Boys, 26 ;	Girls, 31.
Belonging at the close,	53.	" 28 ;	" 25.
Present,	50.	" 28 ;	" 22.
Average attendance,	37.		

This School has again accomplished a good year's work, and afforded us, at its several examinations, ample evidence of the faithfulness and success of the teachers. On the benefits to the town of such a School, your Committee deem it unnecessary to enlarge. These advantages they have presented at length in former Reports, and it is believed that the citizens generally appreciate them. The territorial limits of the town are such that pupils qualified can attend the High School from all sections with less inconvenience than in most places. As soon as another grade of Schools is added to our system, which subject has before been commended to your notice, a grade intermediate between the Primary and Grammar, it will be expedient to advance somewhat the qualifications for admission to the High School. The intermediate School recommended would receive pupils too



old for the Primaries, and not enough advanced for the Grammar Schools, who should be under the charge of a master.\* The Grammar Schools would thus be made more select in the attainments of the pupils, and, most naturally, the qualifications for going up higher would be raised. From most of the principal towns of the State we hear the want expressed of such a grade of Schools, if not already established, as a means of improving the High School. Still, our population being as yet small, we have been able hitherto to preserve a fair standard of scholarship in the High School.

Undoubtedly, in all places where a proper High School exists, parents and teachers are too earnest to press forward the pupils to share its advantages. Let them read again the "Psalm of Life," and so let their pupils "learn to labor and to wait." While writing these thoughts, our attention has been called to an excellent Report from one of the chief towns of the State, in which this common tendency alluded to is so well described that we cannot forbear presenting the passage, that its wisdom may be yet wider disseminated. "By far too many are offered for examination for the High School. Without a good foundation in the essential branches, how can the superstructure be anything but defective? We regret to find that injudicious sympathy is sometimes shown by the parents with this haste of the child to get into advanced studies; or, even where no direct encouragement is given to this haste, still there seems to be little done to check this forwardness. A few words at home might easily silence this foolish feeling that it is disgraceful to study long in the rudiments of knowledge, or that to enter the High School implies that one is in a more honor-

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\* One school of this description has been lately established in the neighboring city of Roxbury, where hitherto their grades have remained the same as with us. It is described in the last Report of that city as numbering 88 pupils. Cost of maintaining it for the year, \$856.64. "It is composed of boys over eight years of age, who are not qualified for admission to the Grammar Schools, many of whom never enjoyed the benefits of any previous instruction. The pupils are promoted to the Grammar Schools as soon as they are sufficiently advanced in their studies."



able position than he was before. The scholar should know that all sensible people regard him as disgraced only, when he has pushed himself forward into a position for which he was not prepared by previous training, but merely urged on by ambition, or conceit, or ill-founded jealousy."

Where a selection must be made among applicants for admission, no method perhaps is more just and satisfactory, on the whole, than that which has been before pursued here and elsewhere, of testing the pupils by questions previously prepared by the Committee, to which answers must be written without communication with books, with one another, with teachers, or with the Committee. In some of our former Reports are preserved these questions, and the results.

Of course, those who do not apply themselves diligently and faithfully to the studies and requirements of the place will leave the High School none the higher for its name, little, if any, advanced in knowledge for the good scholarship and exertions of both the accomplished Principal and Assistant. But for the honor and encouragement of the town, it has already sent forth several pupils whom we would willingly place by the side of graduates from any similar institution. Some of these are teachers with us, and some in other places, of whose success and good character we learn each year. Pupils who have been admitted to college from this school have in no instance, we believe, dishonored their early training. With the State scholarships which are held out for the encouragement of any studious boys who might need such aid, and with the best endowed and most distinguished University in the land so accessible that our youth entered there may live in their homes, it is hoped that more and more will be induced to enter on the collegiate course.\* Some will be presented for admission the present

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\* Students at present in Harvard University from this town are, Norton, son of John Norton, in the Senior Class; Warren, son of George W. Warren, in the Junior Class; Bigelow, son of Samuel Bigelow, Duncklee, son of Joseph Duncklee, Rice, son of Edmund Rice, Jr., in the Sophomore Class. Whittemore, (a former pupil of this school,) son of Dr. Whittemore, graduates in distinguished



season. We have found classes here in Latin, Greek, French, trigonometry, geometry, algebra, arithmetic, physical geography, natural philosophy, book-keeping, astronomy, botany, English literature, history, English grammar and analysis. The number attending to each study has varied considerably. One quarter of all the pupils were in French, more than one third were in Latin, more than one half in algebra. The whole School has received instruction in reading and spelling, in English composition and penmanship, and the male pupils in elocution.

The last examination was held, as usual, through the day. The Committee think, and they believe such was the general opinion of the large company assembled, that a more satisfactory exhibition has never before been presented in the exercises of the school. The recitations in algebra, geometry and arithmetic, to which a considerable time was given, were very satisfactory. In analysis, physical geography, history, and philosophy, classes have been presented at the several examinations, instructed by the Principal and the Assistant, showing but a very small percentage of errors. Portions from the Greek, Latin, and French text-books, selected by the Committee, were read and translated, for the most part very fluently and correctly. And on the last visitation the various recitations, the compositions, some of which were read aloud by their authors, — one a poetical composition of much merit, — the declamation in the vernacular and in Latin, unusually spirited, elicited the approbation of all. While we have been called to censure the

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standing at West Point this season. It is recommended that the list of College graduates from the town, begun in these pages last year, be continued. Of the later pupils entered at College from this school, Baldwin, son of Life Baldwin, of Yale College, 1854, has lately opened an office for the practice of law in this town; Bigelow, son of Samuel Bigelow, of Harvard University, 1856, and late of the Dane Law School in the University, is completing his law studies in Boston; Fuller, son of Granville Fuller, entered at Yale in 1852, and subsequently of the Lawrence Scientific School in Harvard University, pursued the studies and the practice of an architect; Warren, son of William Warren, of Harvard University, 1854, has opened an office for the practice of law in Boston, and is Town Clerk here.



irregular attendance of some pupils here, we were pleased to find that, on the last examination, no one of the boys was absent, and but three of the girls, two of whom were excused for absence. The Assistant Teacher, a native of Plymouth, N. H., and an excellent scholar, formerly in this institution, was appointed to this situation a year since, having been for eleven years previous one of our most successful teachers. The Principal, a native of Milton, who graduated at Cambridge with high scholarship, in 1836, and, after a few years' experience in teaching at Marblehead and at Milton, commenced here May 3, 1841, has signified to us his desire to be released from further service. With the exception of the year 1855-56, in which he was called to Taunton as Principal of the High School, on a higher salary, but recalled here in 1856, he has taught steadily and successfully among us these eighteen years. Many who were formerly his pupils are now among the parents of our school-children. Should he persist in his purpose to lay down the work of teaching, the Committee, while deeply regretting the loss, cannot refrain from the renewed expression of their sense of his valuable services in the past, and their hope that he will find, in his retirement from the active labors of the profession, that rest and satisfaction, that true "*otium cum dignitate*," to which his long and faithful services so well entitle him.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Town-Hall, Washington Street.*

Principal, Mr. S. A. Poor, of Brighton.

Assistant, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, of Brighton.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	111.	Boys, 68 ;	Girls, 43.
Belonging at the close,	65.	" 36 ;	" 29.
Present,	50.	" 29 ;	" 21.
Average attendance,	78.		



*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	95.	Boys, 54 ;	Girls, 41.
Belonging at the close,	88.	" 50 ;	" 38.
Present,	77.	" 42 ;	" 35.
Average attendance,	76.		

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	106.	Boys, 66 ;	Girls, 40.
Belonging at the close,	101.	" 63 ;	" 38.
Present,	89.	" 54 ;	" 35.
Average attendance,	87.		

The great discrepance between the number entered, and the number belonging at the close of the First Term, was owing to the fact that many had left temporarily, to return again with the next term.

A less public and exposed situation is greatly desired for this large school. Under the head of School-Houses, notice is taken of the disturbances to which it is often liable, above, below, and around beneath the windows. The second story of the Town Hall building, appropriated to this School, might well be devoted to offices, and rooms connected with the Town Hall and town service. Both the Principal of the School, and the Assistant in her apartment, have been much annoyed by disturbances incident to the location, but over which your Committee have no control. Nevertheless, we present on the whole a favorable report of the fortunes of the School through another year, and of its present condition.

The pupils are instructed in the usual Grammar School branches, including compositions. Some, we regret to report, have been very remiss in attendance, being withdrawn, on certain days in the week, for business. All such will be sure to show in their attainments the loss of school opportunities. Many have been regular, bright, and prompt in their exercises, and these have shown us a different kind of goods. We believe the teachers here are never sick, but go to and from the School with something of the sun's regularity. The class preparing for the High School numbers twenty. You are referred to the report of that School for



a proposed arrangement by which the Grammar Schools would be much benefited. Meanwhile, we think the teachers have presented us with results about as favorable as we could justly demand, when considering the number of pupils and the variety of their attainments before entering. At the last examination, most of the forenoon was given to the exercises in arithmetic, and there were very few errors in the solution of questions selected and proposed by the Committee. In the afternoon, the room was filled with the friends of the School. One hundred and one pupils belonged, though, as may be seen, more had been entered in the term. Of these, eighty-nine unterrified ones stood the ordeal of examination, though necessity, not fear, might have detained some of the twelve absentees. The Principal, a native of Gloucester, first took charge of the School September 28, 1847; and, with the exception of the year 1850-51, when he taught a private school here, he has been since at its head. The present assistant teacher, a native of this town, and a graduate with excellent scholarship from our High School, commenced March 31, 1857, having been the highly successful teacher of Primary School No. V. for nearly nine years previously. And both these teachers have taught well so long, that it is too late for them to begin now to teach ill.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*North Harvard Street.*

Teacher, Mr. John D. Marston of Parsonsfield, Me.

### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	66.	Boys, 37; Girls, 29.
Belonging at the close,	40.	" 17; " 23.
Present,	35.	" 14; " 21.
Average attendance,	47.	" 20.7      26.4

### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	61.	Boys, 28; Girls, 33.
Belonging at the close,	54.	" 26; " 28.
Present,	45.	" 21; " 24.
Average attendance,	47.	" 20.5 " 26.6



*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	72.	Boys, 39;	Girls, 33.
Belonging at the close,	62.	" 36;	" 26.
Present,	59.	" 33;	" 26.
Average attendance,	57.	" 30.5	" 26.6

There are a few pupils who have been long in this School, much more advanced than any in the Harvard Grammar School, their homes being among the most distant from the High School. Some studies have, on this account, been allowed here, not usual in Grammar Schools,—as English history, astronomy, physical geography, and algebra, in which we found three of the girls as far advanced as to solve problems involving four unknown quantities. Still, with some forward and bright scholars, the teacher has had to labor, as in all such schools, with backwardness and dullness and waywardness. The crying school sin of the land, irregularity of attendance, to which some parents seem to be utterly indifferent, exerts its baneful influence here also. Still no exception is found here to that almost universal law of schools, that those pupils who come punctually and constantly, who are diligent and obedient and faithful themselves, are the good scholars, are really learning, day by day, approved by their teacher and the Committee, and preparing themselves to adorn the station in life to which they shall hereafter be called.

Finer specimens of drawing and of penmanship than we found here are seldom presented, we believe, in Grammar Schools. And through the excellent instruction of Mr. Horace Bird of Watertown in singing, we have been highly entertained at the examinations with this most useful and agreeable accomplishment. We especially commend the successful labors of that gentleman the last two terms in this School through the voluntary contributions of the pupils, the hours of instruction being so arranged as not to interfere with the regular studies. Pupils from Primary No. I., in the same building, have also been among his classes. We pronounce the singing, under the guidance of Mr. Bird, present with us at the examinations, the best,



most correct, spirited, and generally shared, which we have ever heard in schools, in town or elsewhere. The recitations we have generally found correct. Six pupils will be presented for admission to the High School, next term. At the examination just held, the general order was not quite as good as usual. A violent snow-storm kept some of the friends away, though many were present. The teacher was first appointed March 12, 1855, then in charge of a school at Lexington, and has thus completed four years of successful labor with us.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. I.

*North Harvard Street.*

Principals (successively), Miss Sophia A. Bacon, of Harvard, and Miss Hannah A. Willard, of Cambridge.

Assistant, Miss Sarah B. Monto, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Edward M. Abbot.

#### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	94.	Boys, 47 ;	Girls, 47.
Belonging at the close,	89.	" 45 ;	" 44.
Present,	68.	" 33 ;	" 35.
Average attendance,	73.		

#### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	94.	Boys, 51 ;	Girls, 43.
Belonging at the close,	81.	" 47 ;	" 34.
Present,	61.	" 33 ;	" 28.
Average attendance,	62.		

#### *Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	74.	Boys, 42 ;	Girls, 32.
Belonging at the close,	72.	" 41 ;	" 31.
Present,	67.	" 39 ;	" 28.
Average attendance,	50.		

Miss Bacon, who had taught here very acceptably since March 9th, 1853, was detained from school by sickness, from the recess until early in July, and Miss Sarah M. English, formerly of Primary No. VI., supplied her place. Miss Bacon was again taken from her labors September 15th, and was too ill to resume the charge. On



the 21st of September, Miss Willard, a native of Ashby, a graduate of the Cambridge High School, who had taught with much success as Assistant in the High School, Dover, N. H., and elsewhere, was appointed, and commenced on the 22d. Miss Monto began as Assistant on the 25th of March last. At the first examination, under Miss Bacon, as may be seen, out of 89 pupils belonging, 68 only were present. Owing in part to the illness and absence of the teacher, and to sickness among the children, the School was less favorably reported than usual. The last two examinations, under Miss Willard, have shown a very manifest improvement in general order and discipline, and in accuracy of recitation. At the examination just held, two boys and three girls only, out of seventy-two pupils, were absent. Ten pupils, we found, had not once been absent during the term. Some dissatisfaction, among a portion of the families represented in the School, with the method of administration and discipline pursued by the present Principal, has been brought to the notice of the Committee. They hope these differences may be reconciled, since, from frequent interviews and somewhat minute investigation, they are unanimous in the opinion that she possesses rare qualifications for the successful management and best instruction of a large school.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. II.

### *School Street.*

Principals (successively), Miss Mary Jane Kimball, of Topsfield, and Miss Sarah L. Beane, of Candia, N. H.

Assistants (successively), Miss Griselda C. Brabiner, of Boston, and Miss Emma Amanda Draper, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Wm. A. Brabiner.

### *First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	83.	Boys, 48 ;	Girls, 35.
Belonging at the close,	68.	“ 37 ;	“ 31.
Present,	63.	“ 35 ;	“ 28.
Average attendance,	64.		

### *Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	84.	Boys, 49 ;	Girls, 35.
Belonging at the close,	83.	“ 49 ;	“ 34.



Present,	67.	Boys, 39; Girls, 28.
Average attendance,	66.	

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	84.	Boys, 49; Girls, 35.
Belonging at the close,	74.	" 46; " 28.
Present,	71.	" 43; " 28.
Average attendance,	72.	

Miss Kimball, a very acceptable teacher here since May 7, 1855, resigned her situation from ill-health at the close of the second term, November 22d. Miss Beane, who had taught seven or eight years in various places, was appointed her successor, to commence on the 29th. She was detained until the 6th of December, when she began. Miss Brabiner, who was appointed Assistant March 24, 1858, was obliged from ill-health to relinquish the work, September 4th. Miss Draper, a former pupil of the High School, was appointed in her place, and commenced September 14th.

This large School needed an Assistant before the want was supplied, and the salutary effect of such aid has been manifest through the year. It has been in good condition. And in losing both the Principal and the Assistant, who had done exceedingly well, it has fortunately secured teachers under whom, we think, it will still prosper. They appear to be working together, harmoniously and successfully, for the interests of the School. At the last examination, three boys only were absent, girls all present. The recitations were quite correct. Some examples of special improvement in penmanship were noticed, and the general order was commended.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. III.

*Corner Washington and Faneuil Streets.*

Teacher, Miss Ellen Harris, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. William R. Champney.

*First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	64.	Boys, 34; Girls, 30.
Belonging at the close,	52.	" 27; " 25.
Present,	47.	" 26; " 21.
Average attendance,	41.	

*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	62.	Boys, 32; Girls, 30.
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Belonging at the close,	54.	Boys, 26 ; Girls, 28.
Present,	39.	“ 19 ; “ 20.
Average attendance,	43.	

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	52.	Boys, 26 ; Girls, 26.
Belonging at the close,	48.	“ 25 ; “ 23.
Present,	42.	“ 20 ; “ 22.
Average attendance,	38.	

The first examination of this School was very favorably reported by Messrs. Matchett and Warren, who conducted it. At the last two examinations, all of the Committee were present, and they found much the same condition of things as usual ; namely, the recitations correct, order and quiet of the pupils unequalled in any school they ever visited, (so said all,) the reading of the younger as well as of the older children distinct, and quite free from any unpleasant tone, the spelling, and that of some very long words which they assigned, well mastered, and the penmanship very fair. In the fall, a few advanced pupils were sent to the Grammar School, and so we missed at the last examination some exercises in arithmetic and geography before exhibited here, more mature than usual in Primary Schools. But there is about enough forwardness here for such young learners. The friends of the School have come numerously to witness the exercises, and may be congratulated on having a faithful and successful teacher. She was well educated at our High School, and began her work here December 5, 1855.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. IV.

*Academy Hill.*

Principal, Miss Catharine Stearns, of Lancaster.

Assistant, Miss Mary Elizabeth Wellman, of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Charles Corliss.

*First Examination.*

Omitted, the principal having been sick and absent. On a visit to the School at the close of the first term, we found,

Pupils in the term,	98.	Boys, 39 ; Girls, 59.
Belonging at the close,	91.	“ 35 ; “ 56.
Present,	78.	“ 31 ; “ 47.
Average attendance,	74.	



*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	91.	Boys, 37 ;	Girls, 54.
Belonging at the close,	89.	" 36 ;	" 53.
Present,	82.	" 32 ;	" 50.
Average attendance,	75.		

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	88.	Boys, 36 ;	Girls, 52.
Belonging at the close,	88.	" 36 ;	" 52.
Present,	88.	" 36 ;	" 52.
Average attendance,	73.		

During the temporary absence of Miss Stearns, from ill-health, from April 22d to the middle of June, Miss Venah Jane Warren, of this town, supplied her place. The first examination was omitted. At both the other examinations, the Committee, all present, have found much to commend. The School remains the largest of all the Primaries ; and we have been surprised to see how the Principal and her Assistant have been able to instruct this great company so well. At the last examination, as may be seen, not one pupil was absent, and not one had left during the term. The first class in reading, first in geography, and particularly the first in arithmetic, were remarkably correct. The writing-books look better than usual in such schools. The youngest children are exercised much in drawing, for occupation and amusement, and around the room, on blackboards, their work was preserved for inspection. The method of spelling was particularly approved, as well adapted for beginners. The singing and the recitation of dialogues and pieces interested the many friends present. The School Register at the close of the year was rather the neatest one presented to us. These annual School Registers, after their returns are made out and forwarded by the Committee to the State Department, are preserved among the Town Documents ; and more care should be bestowed on them by the teachers than if they were to be destroyed at the close of the three terms. Miss Stearns has taught this School since December, 1855, having before had charge of it from December, 1847, to March, 1851, and we believe, in the judgment of all, has been particularly successful in the discipline and instruction of children.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. V.

*Shepard Street.*

Teacher, Miss Mary Jane Hall, of Cambridge.  
 Prudential Committee, Mr. William Livermore.

*First Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	71.	Boys, 44 ;	Girls, 27.
Belonging at the close,	62.	" 38 ;	" 24.
Present,	51.	" 33 ;	" 18.
Average attendance,	48.	" 31 ;	" 17.

*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	65.	Boys, 38 ;	Girls, 27.
Belonging at the close,	64.	" 38 ;	" 26.
Present,	58.	" 34 ;	" 24.
Average attendance,	56.	" 34 ;	" 22.

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	61.	Boys, 37 ;	Girls, 24.
Belonging at the close,	59.	" 36 ;	" 23.
Present,	59.	" 36 ;	" 23.
Average attendance,	50.	" 32 ;	" 18.

Miss Hall took charge of this School, Dec. 7, 1857. She had taught here but one term when we last reported ; and as the School was not very orderly when she began, we could not then give a very favorable account of it. But she has gained during the past year, in order. The School-house is the only one of the Primaries which needs to be replaced by a new one. Under the head of School-houses, the subject is commended in full to the Town. The pupils are too much crowded. The room and desks are inconvenient, unfavorable for the best management and order of a school. The Teacher has devoted herself very faithfully to the School. We have found the recitations, for the most part, correct, — and have listened with pleasure to the singing, and to the speaking of pieces in prose and verse. At the last examination, every pupil was present, and no one had left during the term. More of the friends came in than we have ever seen here. Some stood in spaces where a chair could not well be placed ; and if those who stood did not speak the want of a more spacious and commodious room, their patient silence must plead for the requisite appropriation at your hand, which we doubt not will be forthcoming.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL No. VI.

*Allston Street, near Beacon.*

Teacher, Mrs. Caroline E. D. Howe, of Portland, Me.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. William Daily.

*First Examination.*

Omitted, Teacher absent.

On a visit to the School near the close of the term, we found,—

Pupils in the term,	55.	Boys, 30;	Girls, 25.
Then belonging,	51.	" 30;	" 21.
Present,	40.	" 24;	" 16.
Average attendance,	38.		

*Second Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	54.	Boys, 32;	Girls, 22.
Belonging at the close,	45.	" 29;	" 16.
Present,	34.	" 20;	" 14.
Average attendance,	36.		

*Third Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	46.	Boys, 30;	Girls, 16.
Belonging at the close,	45.	" 29;	" 16.
Present,	36.	" 26;	" 10.
Average attendance,	34.		

Mrs. Howe, formerly Mrs. Mansfield, was absent from the middle of June, through the term, being called away by domestic bereavement. Miss Harriet A. Hollis, of this town, took her place. With this exception, the teacher has been steadily and successfully devoted to the welfare of the School. And we have to report the happiest results, as witnessed in the correctness of the recitations, in the excellent order, in the good writing, in the pleasant exercises of singing and speaking,—one dialogue composed by the teacher being heard,—and in the care and neatness of the building, as testified in part by the Prudential Committee, who was present with us at both examinations. The absences at the Fall examination were chiefly owing to sickness. On that occasion the room was filled with the friends of the children, who presented to the teacher, through the Committee, a valuable gold watch, as a token of their regard and of their appreciation of her good services. The



teacher likewise presented to several of the pupils, through the Committee, books, rewards of merit for special good deportment, and to one little girl, who, through storm or sunshine, had not once been absent from School during the year past. Mrs. Howe commenced her work here, November 30, 1857.

## FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Secretary of the Board presents the following statement of what has been expended for Schools the past year. From the accompanying table, it will be seen that the sum total falls short of that expended in the previous year by \$ 138.66.

Town appropriation for wages and fuel, . . . . .	\$ 5,500.00
From the State School Fund, . . . . .	115.50
	<hr/>
	\$ 5,615.50

Paid for Teachers' wages :—

High School, Mr. John Ruggles, Principal, . . . . .	\$ 1,200.00
Miss Anna J. George, Assistant, . . . . .	300.00
Harvard Grammar School, Mr. S. A. Poor, Principal, . . . . .	800.00
Miss Sarah E. Waugh, Assistant, . . . . .	300.00
Second Grammar School, Mr. John D. Marston, . . . . .	800.00
Primary No. I., Miss Sophia A. Bacon, Principal, (21 $\frac{1}{3}$ weeks,) . . . . .	128.00
Miss Hannah A. Willard, Principal, (21 $\frac{2}{3}$ weeks,) . . . . .	130.00
Miss Sarah B. Monto, Assistant, (41 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks,) . . . . .	124.50
Primary No. II., Miss Mary J. Kimball, Principal, (30 $\frac{1}{6}$ weeks,) . . . . .	187.00
Miss Sarah L. Beane, Principal, (12 weeks,) . . . . .	72.00
Miss G. C. Brabiner, Assistant, (18 weeks,) . . . . .	54.00
Miss Emma A. Draper, Assistant, (21 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks,) . . . . .	67.50
Primary No. III., Miss Ellen Harris, (44 weeks,) . . . . .	242.00
Primary No. IV., Miss Catharine Stearns, Principal, (36 weeks,) . . . . .	216.00
Miss Venah J. Warren, Principal, (7 $\frac{1}{3}$ weeks,) . . . . .	36.67
Miss Mary E. Wellman, Assistant, (44 weeks,) . . . . .	140.00
Primary No. V., Miss Mary Jane Hall, (44 weeks,) . . . . .	242.00
Primary No. VI., Mrs. Caroline E. D. Howe, (41 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks,) . . . . .	207.50
	<hr/>
Total paid for wages, . . . . .	\$ 5,247.17



## Paid for fuel : —

*Primary No. I. (including Second Grammar School).*

Coal, 12 tons,	\$ 66.00	
Charcoal, 98 baskets, \$ 31.67 ; Shavings,		
\$ 1.00,	32.67	
	<hr/>	\$ 98.67

*Primary No. II.*

Coal, 3 tons,	\$ 16.50	
Charcoal, 18 baskets,	5.76	
	<hr/>	22.26

*Primary No. III.*

Coal, 4 tons,	\$ 22.00	
Charcoal, 18 baskets, \$ 5.84 ; Shavings,		
&c., \$ 1.17,	7.01	
	<hr/>	29.01

*Primary No. IV. (including High School).*

Coal, 15 tons, \$ 82.50 ; 2 tons, \$ 14.00,	\$ 96.50	
Charcoal, 77 baskets, \$ 24.64, and \$ 4.00,	28.64	
	<hr/>	125.14

*Primary No. V.*

Coal, 2 tons,	\$ 11.00	
Charcoal, 12 baskets,	3.84	
	<hr/>	14.84

*Primary No. VI.*

Coal, 1 ton,	\$ 5.50	
Charcoal, 15 baskets, \$ 4.80 : Kindlings,		
\$ 3.50,	8.30	
	<hr/>	13.80

*Harvard Grammar School and Town Hall.*

Coal, 17½ tons,	\$ 96.25	
Charcoal, 82 baskets, \$ 27.33 ; Shavings,		
\$ 2.50,	29.83	
	<hr/>	126.08

Total paid for fuel, . . . \$ 429.80

In the Treasurer's Report, the fuel amounts to \$ 446.88, he having put in bills amounting to \$ 17.08, paid this year, but incurred during the year previous, viz.: Charcoal for Primary No. II., \$ 7.00 ; Kindlings for Primary No. IV., \$ 1.75 ; and Charcoal for Harvard Grammar School, \$ 8.33.

Paid for incidental School expenses, including repairs on School-houses, care of fires and School-rooms, compensation to Committees, printing Report and Notices, books to desti-



tute children, Insurance, new Desks, grading grounds, &c., . . . . .	\$ 711.52
Paid for wages, . . . . .	5,247.17
“ fuel, . . . . .	429.80
Total for all School purposes,	\$ 6,388.49

The following table shows what amount has been expended since 1840-41 for wages and fuel, compensation to Committees, and, since 1848-49, the total for all School purposes : —

Year.	Wages and Fuel.	Prudential Committee.	General Committee.	For all School Purposes.
1840-41	\$ 1,040.08	. .	\$ 79.00	
1841-42	1,954.83	. .	101.00	
1842-43	1,958.94	\$ 40	58.00	
1843-44	1,994.65	40	85.00	
1844-45	1,905.28	40	75.00	
1845-46	1,730.05	40	75.00	
1846-47	2,058.09	60	75.00	
1847-48	2,374.17	60	80.00	
1848-49	2,731.66	60	74.00	\$ 3,745.10
1849-50	3,176.89	60	92.50	3,731.49
1850-51	3,244.14	60	120.00	4,017.75
1851-52	3,517.63	60	90.00	4,083.79
1852-53	3,595.18	60	70.00	4,080.38
1853-54	3,978.16	60	80.00	13,349.03
1854-55	4,272.29	60	102.00	5,068.08
1855-56	4,259.93	60	146.08	10,265.25
1856-57	4,899.41	60	125.00	16,347.61
1857-58	5,520.90	60	141.00	6,527.15
1858-59	5,676.97	60	130.00	6,388.49

### SCHOOL-CHILDREN.

The number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the first day of May last by the Assessors according to law, was 533, — males 274, females 259. Some under five and over fifteen attend school. But these ages are assumed for convenience by the Massachusetts Board of Education in their yearly calculations, and so certified to their Secretary annually by the School Committee of each town. The following table shows the number registered the last term in each School, and the number belonging and present in each at the closing examination ; also, the average attendance for each term.



1858 - 59, — 533 children between five and fifteen.

	Registered.	Belonging.	Present.	AVERAGE.		
				1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term
H. S.	57	53	50	46	42	37
H. G. S.	106	101	89	78	76	87
S. G. S.	73	62	59	47	49	57
No. I.	74	72	67	73	62	50
“ II.	84	74	71	64	66	72
“ III.	52	48	42	41	43	38
“ IV.	88	88	88	74	75	73
“ V.	61	59	59	48	56	50
“ VI.	46	45	36	38	36	34
	<hr/> 641	<hr/> 602	<hr/> 561	<hr/> 509	<hr/> 505	<hr/> 498

### AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

#### PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Thus it appears that at the last examinations the total number of absentees in all the Schools was 41. In the previous year, as may be seen by consulting the table in the last Report, 76 were absent. We have just found 602 pupils belonging in all the Schools. This number, of course, embraces some under five and some over fifteen years of age. It may be regarded as about the number of children now receiving school instruction, since but a very few of our children go out of town to school. No private school of any description is sustained here; and fewer children, in proportion to the population, go elsewhere for their education, than in almost any town in the State. We would have our public schools so good that no private schools should be desired. From a comparison of the few children among us who have received or are receiving their education in private schools out of town, with those educated in our public schools, we do not hesitate at all to decide in favor of the latter. We believe our public school system deals more impartially with the pupils than private schools, generally; and that, for the most part, children are more thoroughly instructed in the former than in the latter. And from our own observation of the practical workings of both public and private schools, we are forced to believe that the latter have not the advantage, as is commonly supposed,



over the former, as respects either the manners or the morals of their pupils. In some instances which we could specify, the large expense incurred for private tuition must be pronounced, so far as benefit to the pupils is concerned, an idle waste of money. And we believe that if all the complaints which are uttered like this, which we have heard more than once, "My child is learning scarcely anything at this expensive school," were brought together, they would result in rearing up in the excellent public schools of the State a yet more numerous band of well-instructed young men and women.

To learn the character of our schools in regard to daily absence and irregularity, as compared with those of other places, we refer to the late Annual Report of Hon. George S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education. In his tables, which are presented each year after the same method, he classes Brighton 30th among the 333 towns and cities of the State, as respects the average attendance of children on the public schools. In 29 towns, which, with two exceptions only, are all in the interior, and remote from cities, the attendance is more regular than with us. In 303 towns, it is not so good. Somerville is higher in the scale, ranking 29th. No other town near us is so high. Brookline is 33d; West Cambridge, 89th; Dorchester, 116th; Cambridge, 145th; Roxbury, 156th; Quincy, 168th; Newton, 206th; Watertown, 215th; Boston, 216th; Medford, 226th; Waltham, 287th; Charlestown, 292d. The town highest in the Secretary's scale is Erving in Franklin County, No. 1. The town lowest (of all that have made returns) is Stockbridge in Berkshire County, 331st, where the mean average attendance on the public schools is considerably less than half the number of school-children.

#### TOWN'S RANK AS TO ITS APPROPRIATION.

By making a small addition each year to its appropriation for Schools, the town maintains a very honorable place among the towns of the State. The Secretary's table places Brighton 6th among the 333 towns and cities, in the amount



which her appropriation would allow to each school-child, and 2d among the 47 towns and cities of the county. Her appropriation of \$ 5,685.82 would give to each child \$ 10.33. Nahant stands again at the head of all ; her appropriation of \$ 1,200, with *only sixty children*, allowing to each \$ 20.00. North Ashford in Berkshire County stands lowest ; her appropriation of \$ 46.50 allowing to each of her 31 children \$ 1.50. Brookline, as in the year previous, stands 2d ; raising \$ 12,950, allowing to each of her 661 children \$ 19.59. West Roxbury stands 3d ; \$ 13.40 to each child. Dorchester, 4th ; \$ 13.27. Somerville, 5th ; \$ 10.69. Boston stands, as in the year previous, 13th ; raising \$ 270,120.56, with 29,456 children between five and fifteen ; for each, \$ 9.17. The rank of this town, for each year since the Secretary's tables have been prepared, is shown in the 6th column, below.

Year.	Population.	No. of Public Schools.	School- Children.	Appropriation for Wages and Fuel.	Rank in the State.
1837	1,337	4	337	1,000	
1838 - 39	"	4	338	1,200	
1839 - 40	"	4	323	1,200	
1840 - 41	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841 - 42	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842 - 43	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843 - 44	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844 - 45	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845 - 46	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846 - 47	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847 - 48	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848 - 49	"	9	496	2,700	11
1849 - 50	2,356	9	452	3,100	8
1850 - 51	"	9	402	3,500	3
1851 - 52	"	9	445	3,500	6
1852 - 53	"	9	455	3,500	11
1853 - 54	"	9	475	3,900	9
1854 - 55	"	9	500	3,900	10
1855 - 56	2,895	9	612	4,200	25
1856 - 57	"	9	587	4,800	15
1857 - 58	"	9	550	5,300	6
1858 - 59	"	9	533	5,500	
1859 - 60	"	9	*	5,650	

\* To be ascertained in May.



## SCHOOL TERMS, VACATIONS, AND EXAMINATIONS.

The present school year extends from the last Monday of February, 1859 (28th day), to the last Monday of February, 1860 (27th day). It is divided into three school terms. During the last week of each term, the Committee will visit and examine every School. There are eight weeks of vacation, and the following days are prescribed holidays: Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, first day of January, Washington's birthday, Fast-day, May-day, Independence, Commencement, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The school year begins with a vacation of one week. The first term begins on the first Monday of March (7th day), and extends to the 4th Monday of July (25th day), comprising twenty weeks. A vacation of five weeks follows. The second term begins on the 5th Monday of August (29th day), and extends to the 3d Monday of November (21st day), comprising twelve weeks. A vacation of one week follows. The third term begins on the 4th Monday of November (28th day), and extends to the last Monday of February, 1860 (27th day), comprising thirteen weeks.

A recess of one week occurs in the long term, beginning on the 4th Monday of May (23d day), and extending to the 5th Monday (30th day). This recess makes up the eight weeks of vacation. It is not considered as ending a term. When the recess begins, the school registers are not to be closed up, as they are before each vacation.

The quarter salaries of teachers are payable on the 7th day of June, September, December, 1859, and 25th day of February, 1860. The weekly compensation of teachers is to be paid at the close of each school term,—on the 4th Saturday of July (23d day), on the 3d Saturday of November (19th day), and on the 4th Saturday of February, 1860 (25th day).

## APPROPRIATION FOR WAGES AND FUEL.

The Committee recommend that the sum of five thousand six hundred and fifty dollars (\$ 5,650) be raised and



appropriated for teachers' wages and fuel for the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted, in behalf of the Committee,

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	} <i>Superintending</i>
THEODORE MATCHETT,	
WILLIAM W. WARREN,	

*School Committee.*

*Brighton, March 7, 1859.*

*Brighton, March 7, 1859.*

In Town Meeting, presented, accepted, and passed to be printed.

Attest,

WILLIAM WIRT WARREN, *Town Clerk.*

At the Town Meeting, \$5,650 was appropriated for wages and fuel, as recommended. Rev. Sumner Ellis was chosen to serve on the Board for three years, agreeably to the recent statute regulating such election, in place of Mr. Warren, whose term of office expired with this date.

At the same meeting, Messrs. James Dana, Benjamin Franklin Pierce, and Horace W. Jordan, were chosen a Committee to act on the Resolution submitted above, page 9, and to report to the Town thereon, in April next.

## PUBLIC LECTURES.

A Course of Lectures has been given at the Town Hall weekly, as usual, the past winter, as follows:—

Monday, November 29th, by Samuel K. Lothrop, D.D., of Boston, on "The Dignity and Importance of Productive Labor"; by Mrs. Julia B. Barrow, of Boston, "Readings"; by Edwin P. Whipple, of Boston, on "Joan of Arc"; by Wendell Phillips, of Boston, on "Toussaint l'Ouverture, the Hero of St. Domingo"; by Oliver Wendell Holmes, M.D., of Boston, on "The Chief End of Man"; by Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr., of Boston, on "The American Farmer"; by Jerome V. C. Smith, M.D., of Boston, on "Animal Mechanism"; by Ralph Waldo Emerson, of Concord, on "Pursuits of Country Life"; by Rev. J. C. Fletcher, of Newburyport, on "Brazil and the Brazilians"; by William E. Richardson, of Boston, on "Life and Times of Louis XVI."



TWENTY-SECOND

62186

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

## THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

24358.5

OF THE

## TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

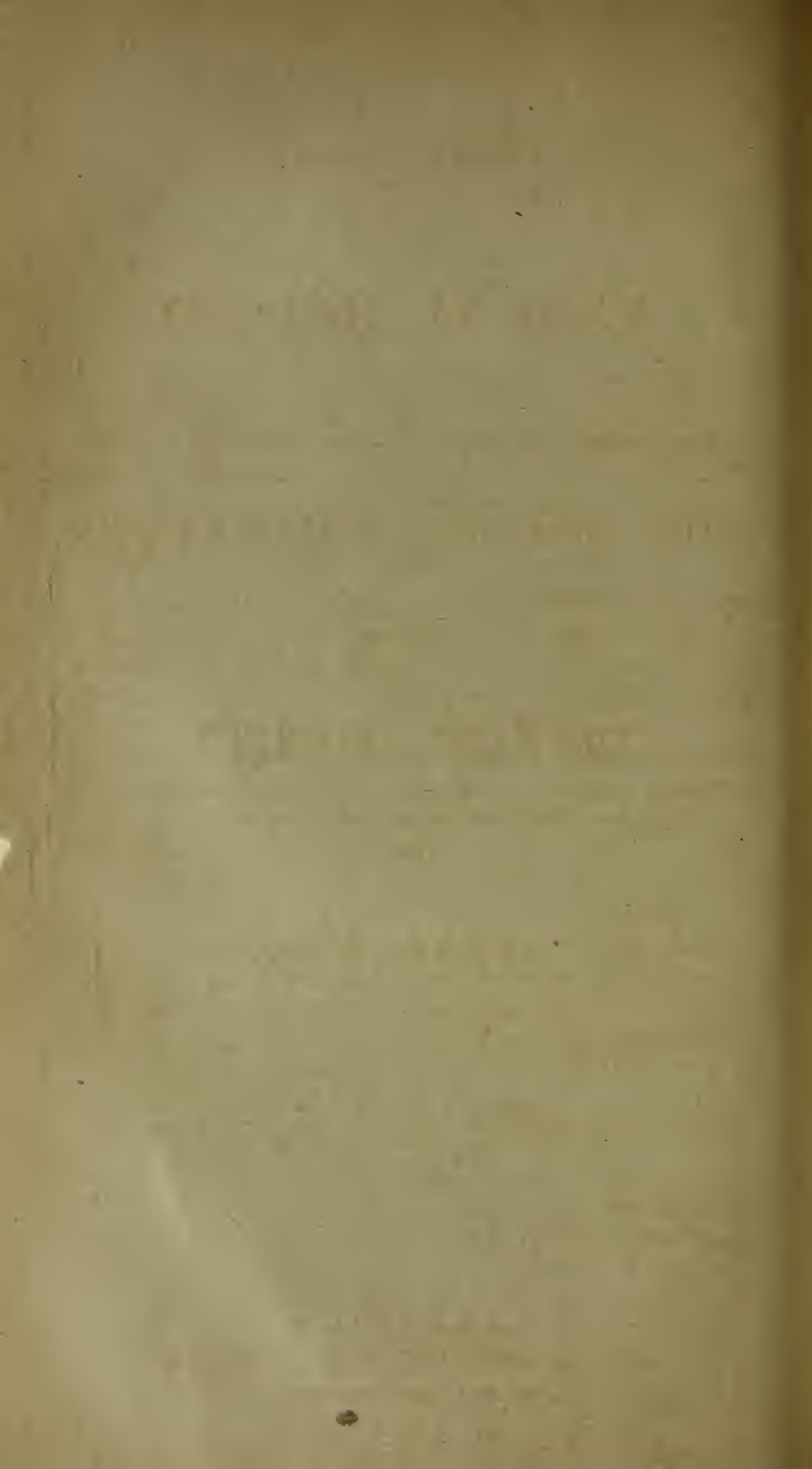
1859-60.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
WELCH, BIGELOW, AND COMPANY,  
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1860.







TWENTY-SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1859-60.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
WELCH, BIGELOW, AND COMPANY,  
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1860.



*Brighton, March 5, 1860.*

IN Town Meeting, the following Report was presented, accepted, and passed to be printed.

Attest,

WILLIAM WIRT WARREN, *Town Clerk.*

---

At the same meeting, \$ 6,000 was appropriated for wages and fuel, as recommended. Mr. John Ruggles was chosen to serve on the Board for three years, agreeably to the recent statute regulating such election, in place of Mr. Matchett, whose term of office expired with this date, and who declined re-election.

At the same meeting, Messrs. Washington C. Allen, Benjamin Franklin Pierce, and Horace W. Jordan were chosen a Committee to act on the Recommendation presented on page 8, and to report to the Town in April next.

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COPIES of the early School Reports of this town are much wanted, to complete files for binding. If any families have in their possession early copies of the same, or early copies of the Treasurer's Reports, which they do not wish to preserve, they will confer a great favor by informing the Chairman of the School Committee, who will send for them.

The School Report was first printed in 1840, and the Treasurer's or Auditors' Report in 1841.



# REPORT.

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THE Twenty-Second Annual Report of the School Committee of Brighton, for the year 1859-60, is herewith respectfully submitted.

## REQUIRED CHARACTER OF A SCHOOL REPORT.

The statutes of the Commonwealth require that the School Committee shall make to their constituents an Annual Report; that they shall print the same and distribute it among the citizens, and transmit two copies thereof to the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education on or before the 30th of April. The character of the Report thus required is described by the statute as "a *detailed* Report of the condition of the several Public Schools," together with "such statements and suggestions in relation to the Schools as the Committee shall deem necessary or proper to promote the interests thereof."

From an examination of the past Reports which have been printed in this Town each year since 1839-40, inclusive, the above requirements seem to have been regarded. They have presented with considerable detail the condition of the Public Schools here. It would be often easier to write an essay on the general subject of education, or to frame and maintain some favorite theory of instruction, than to gather up accurately and set forth in order at the close of each year, the numerous details which enter into the past and present condition of the several Schools. Details are vastly harder to be dealt with than generalities. And those



ambiguous phrases which so often creep into the pages of a School Report,—which may mean much or little, something or nothing,—which, in themselves legion, may be described by one, namely, “a very considerable degree of improvement,”—these general phrases, it is feared, are often a cover of ignorance as to the actual state of a School whose condition has not been carefully observed and noted down in detail through twelve months.

Accordingly, more statistical information has been presented by the successive School Committees of this Town than in some places. Regard has been had in the suggestions and recommendations of the Board to the wants and welfare of our own municipality chiefly. The number of pupils connected with each School, and during each of the three terms into which our year is divided, has been carefully recorded. The average attendance for each term has been separately reported. The studies pursued, the methods of instruction, the several examinations, the condition of school-houses, the appropriations and expenditures for various school purposes, the rank of the Town among the cities and towns of the Commonwealth as to liberality of expenditure and punctuality in school attendance, as certified by the Secretary of the Board of Education,—these matters all, as they have hitherto been brought to your notice, will still be reported. The citizens will thus be best able to judge of the actual condition and wants of the Schools, and more ready to second the measures which shall from time to time be proposed for their advancement.

### SCHOOL GRADES.

There are nine Schools in Town, all annual and graded, namely, six Primary, two Grammar, and an English and Classical High School. The territory of the Town being small, and the population, probably, but little over three thousand, the children are brought, for the most part, within very convenient distances from these schools. The School which was recommended, last year, to be of a grade between the Primary and Grammar, to receive pupils too large for the former, and not enough advanced for the latter, might



be attached to the Harvard Grammar School, should a larger and more suitable building be erected for that School and for Primary No. V., as will presently be recommended. These school accommodations contrast forcibly with the one ungraded School, which, a century and a quarter since, was located near the present site of the Harvard Grammar School on Washington Street, and which for several years sufficed for the wants of this place, then the south part of Cambridge, from which it was set off and incorporated as a distinct Town, February 28, 1807. The gradual increase of Schools and of the school-children, with the growth of the town, is shown in the table near the close of this Report.

### TEACHERS.

These several Schools have been under the charge of eighteen teachers during the past year, namely, Messrs. Ruggles, Buckingham, Poor, Marston, Bigelow, and Misses George, Waugh, Monto (Mary B.), Willard, Tuxbury, Monto (Sarah F.), Beane, Draper, Harris, Stearns, Wellman, Hall, and Mrs. Howe. The only changes made have been in the High School and in the Second Grammar School, by the resignation of their Principals, and in the latter by the addition of an Assistant, on account of its great increase; and in Primary No. I. by the resignation of the Principal and the withdrawal of the Assistant, whose services the reduced number of pupils no longer required. Particular reference will be made to these teachers under their respective Schools.

### SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The School-Houses are specially noticed in the last Report. The opinion was there expressed, which we have only to confirm to-day, that the Town compares most favorably in this respect with the cities and towns of the State. Six Schools out of the nine are accommodated in new and spacious buildings, with the best modern school furniture. And of the remaining three Schools, one, Primary No. VI., though not in a new building, has yet ample and satisfactory accommodation. Of two Schools we have to report the pressing



want of larger and better rooms. The Harvard Grammar School, under the Town Hall, on Washington Street, the largest School in Town; and Primary No. V., on Shepard Street, now numbering seventy-one pupils, with prospect of increase, both require other and better accommodations. The Committee, after mature consideration of the subject, recommend that one building be erected, large enough to accommodate both. These two Schools receive pupils from a very considerable portion of the inhabitants of the Town, and it is believed that a suitable location may be found for a new building which shall be sufficiently central for all in this populous section.

It will be remembered that the Committee, last year, presented the want of a new school-house for Primary No. V., and recommended the erection of a building for this School alone. A committee, consisting of Messrs. James Dana, Benjamin F. Pierce, and Horace W. Jordan, was appointed to consider the subject, and subsequently to report to the Town. They were unanimous in the opinion that the want was very pressing; but were unable to obtain a suitable location on satisfactory terms, the present school lot being too small for a new edifice. It was well, we believe, that the work was delayed, though at some inconvenience to the pupils crowded in No. V., since further consideration has convinced us that this School and the Harvard Grammar School may, at less expense and with much greater convenience, be accommodated in one building.

The Harvard Grammar School occupies the story under the Town Hall and immediately above the basement. The room is in itself, and in the disturbances to which it is exposed, most unsuitable for the purpose. In itself it is unsuitable, being low-studded, and will soon be too small for the pupils to be admitted there. But just now it is especially unsuitable, because exposed to most serious disturbances. Almost every week, often two or three times in a week, the Town Hall is occupied for various uses, and the noise incident to the preparations which are made for its occupancy is a sad nuisance to this large School. But the evils arising from the basement beneath the school-room



are of a character not affecting alone the order and quiet of the School, but the morals of the pupils. It is well known that the basement is used in part for police purposes, especially on the great market-days, where criminals are confined often during the sessions of the School. All noise, all profane and vicious language, used below is distinctly heard in the School; and, in some instances, it has been absolutely necessary to dismiss the School. Then, further, there are serious disturbances from the buildings immediately contiguous to the eastern walls of the Town Hall. The room of the Assistant Teacher is particularly exposed to these annoyances, her windows being removed but a few feet. An article is inserted in the warrant for the Town Meeting to-day, asking that the cells for those who are temporarily confined in the basement may be removed. But it seems to us the true remedy is to be found in removing the School. The cells should remain there. There is no more suitable place for these police arrangements than under the public Town Hall. Most City Halls, those especially in which Courts are held, will be found to have these accommodations for persons who could not so well be accommodated at the Hotels. And though, in the removal of these cells, one serious objection to the location would be taken away, still other grievous objections would remain. The place is, in all respects, too public for a School. The room will soon be entirely insufficient. The story of the building used for the School is needed for town offices and town purposes. Accommodation is wanted for an intermediate School, of which mention is made above, and this might be a branch of the Harvard Grammar School, under the care of a competent female Assistant, subject to the Principal of that School. Especially, there is immediate necessity for a building for Primary No. V., and this School may be thus better accommodated with the Harvard Grammar School than in a separate house. Better, less expensive, more economical in its support, is one large school-building, than the same accommodations put in two buildings.

Impressed with these considerations, the Committee rec-



commend the erection of a suitable edifice, either on the spot occupied by Primary No. V., enlarged by the addition of the lot of land in front, or on some other spot in the vicinity. And they further recommend that the Town appoint a special committee who may confer with the School Committee and report to the Town, in April, a fit location, the required size and cost of a house.

### INTERCOURSE OF TEACHERS.

We are glad to report a disposition in our teachers to know more than formerly of each other's Schools, and to confer together concerning their vocation. Teachers have been present often at the examinations of the Schools of their associates. Such mutual conference must be an advantage. Evils in our own system may never be so apparent to ourselves as when we detect them in the same system pursued by another. Useful suggestions will hardly be wanting in the mutual conference of teachers with varied experiences. The mere knowledge that others are encountering the same obstacles, tried by the same petty vexations and hinderances, quickens the faculties to devise remedies, helps us wonderfully to overcome. A Teachers' Association is contemplated in this Town for regular meetings for conference and improvement. No better indication could be presented of the interest of our Teachers in their work, and of their desire to fulfil their noble mission. If persons of almost every other vocation meet often thus, seek thus mutual advice, co-operation, encouragement, why should not the teachers? If the learned thus consult together for the interests of the republic of letters; if science and art are thus best served, why should not the cause of public education be so aided? If the merchants of the land think it well to confer together often touching the interests of the market, the rise and fall in price, and the stock on hand of moneys, grains, and cloths, — of the animal, mineral, and vegetable kingdoms, — shall not the teachers especially, — artificers in costlier materials, fashioners of nobler workmanship than all other craftsmen, — seek for themselves a like knowledge and co-operation?



By all the opportunities afforded, let them learn more of this wondrous art of teaching. It is an art. The teacher who would practise it must be always learning. One will help another. By visiting, occasionally, the Schools; by mutual conference; by the regular perusal of that excellent monthly journal of school and home education, the Massachusetts Teacher, by the assistance now so generously afforded, through State patronage of the Teachers' Institutes and of county associations, let them be ever learning. An impulse has been given to the cause of public education in our own State, certainly, which will not be stayed by ignorance or mistaken parsimony or laziness. The indolent teacher does not fit this day. He would have suited better that very considerate Governor of Virginia, Sir William Berkeley, who, in 1671, wrote home thus to his king, the second Charles: "I thank God there are no free Schools nor printing-presses here, and I trust there will not be these hundred years; for learning breeds up heresies and sects and all abominations, and printing divulges them. God save us from both!" Fifty years before Sir William wrote this memorable letter, a noble band had come to Plymouth and laid the foundations of New England, having tasted the best learning of the Old World, and earnestly desiring to promote the cause of free education as of pure religion. On Sir William's theory, it was a sad misfortune for Massachusetts that the next thing those sturdy Pilgrims looked for and longed after when, to use their own words, they "had builded houses, provided necessaries for their livelihood, reared convenient places for God's worship, and settled the civil government, was to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity." Nevertheless, popular education they did long for. Early were they convinced that neither sound morals nor free institutions could subsist among an ignorant people. By a law enacted in 1647, to the end that learning might not be buried in the graves of their forefathers, the Pilgrims required in every township of fifty families a public School, and in every town of one hundred families a Grammar School, "the masters thereof able to fit youths for the University." Eleven years before that



law passed, our venerable University had been founded here at Cambridge. The press — even, known to this day as the University Press, — had been then eight years at its magic work. And the impulse, then first communicated to the cause of Common School Education, has been perpetuated in New England, has been wondrously revived with the establishment of the Massachusetts Board of Education nearly a quarter of a century since, and is daily enlisting more and more the united sympathies and willing co-operation of all most deserving the name of teachers.

### OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE STATE SCHOOL AGENT TO OUR SCHOOLS.

In this connection, we cannot forbear noticing the recent visit of Rev. B. G. Northrop, one of the Agents of the Massachusetts Board of Education, to our Schools. On the first day of February he met, by appointment, the teachers, together with the School Committee, and, through the afternoon, conferred with them on the interests of popular education, having, in the forenoon, and previously, visited some of the Schools. One teacher only was absent. In the evening he lectured in the Town Hall to an audience, very large considering that it was the coldest night of the season. We are sure that all were highly interested. The exercises of the afternoon were on the plan of a Teachers' Institute. Questions were asked and answered familiarly. The best methods of engaging and instructing pupils were illustrated. In the evening he spoke most happily on topics connected with the teacher's work, and parental co-operation. The result of his visit here has been most favorable. Many useful hints were given. The teachers' attention was directed to many improvements of which they might not have thought. We have witnessed, in several instances, on visiting the Schools since, fruits already ripened from seeds we know he dropped. He was the guest, while in town, of the Chairman of the Board. By his gentlemanly manners, his happy address, his generous thought, his familiarity with the best methods of advancing the cause in hand, he has impressed all here most favorably. The State is to be con-



gratulated in having the services of two men, as Assistants to her School Secretary, so remarkably qualified as Mr. Northrop, and General Oliver, of whose good labors in other towns we have been informed.

## THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF EDUCATION.

These agencies, established by the Legislature a few years since, grew naturally from the Massachusetts School System, and from the manifest success of the Board of Education. The first Secretary, the late lamented Horace Mann, undertook, indeed, the herculean task of surveying and caring for the interests of the Common Schools of the entire State, and that, too, in their least auspicious day. All that mortal man could do we believe he did. Peace and the benediction of all friends of Common School Education on the yet fresh grave of that devoted patron of the cause, — that faithful public servant, that patient, self-sacrificing toiler, that martyr enamored of the Creator's laws and the welfare of man! But in the wider workings of our State School System, in the more tolerant hearing, in the more generous favor which it has obtained, our people have not been content that able and devoted men should be so sacrificed. These additional offices have accordingly been established, by which the work, under the general direction of one, should be shared by three.

It is due, we think, not less to the judicious and efficient operations of the Massachusetts Board of Education, and to the wise and good men who have shared its councils and labors, than to the cause of truth and righteousness to declare here our unqualified admiration of the practical results of that Board. Having regarded the general action of the Board since its establishment in 1837, and having been for the greater part of the time very attentive observers of its doings, we feel competent, as well as called, to add our testimony to its usefulness. The benefit it has rendered to the Commonwealth, in improved methods of teaching, in improved school-buildings, books, apparatus, in the abolition of many old and awful errors and vices, in rearing up



a wholly new and better order of teachers, in fostering a deeper love of learning in ingenuous youth, and a nobler ambition and pride in our towns and villages in the cause of Public Education, cannot be measured. Especially is it right, now, that such testimony should go forth, through these Annual Reports from all towns that know the truth, when an attempt has been recently made, by a few persons scattered through the State, to induce the Legislature to abolish the Board of Education, the State Normal Schools, Teachers' Institutes and Associations, and the State Scholarships even, by which needy, but deserving young men may now enjoy a collegiate education, and to divide the munificent State school-fund among the cities and towns.

Our citizens may not generally have known of this strange attempt by a few in the State to turn back the tide of improvement, and will pardon us a word or two further in detail. The ample consideration which was given in our Legislature to the objections and prayers of the petitioners, some twelve hundred names only, in our State population of a million and a quarter, and the prompt dismissal which was at last granted to the petitions, as unworthy the good name of Massachusetts, have been most encouraging. The papers and petitions which have been presented to the Legislature, at their present session, from the advocates of most disastrous changes, are as a solemn injunction to us, though in a far different sense from that in which the precept was first given, "not to forget the days of darkness." The following are exact copies, in spelling, punctuation, and sentiment, of papers which were presented:—

"All our children in mass from fifteen years old & under to have an equal chance in education & to do this I would recomend a law that such schools shall be maintained at least seven months in the year, and that their Prudential committees shall employ good & efficient teachers to teach the most advanced under fifteen years old and older if the district determine & that all cases of trouble with the teacher shall be settled by a majority of those present at a leagally called meeting provided it cannot be amicably settled by the Prudential committee and that it shall be the duty of the Prudential Committee to canvass the district at the commencement of each term of the school, & if any children who are *compus mentus* are deprived of school for want of food or raiment, he shall forthwith supply them with such things as



he may judge necessary at the expense of the town and that he shall see and that the prudential committee shall receive such compensation as the district shall determine and now I ask you Mr chairman to see that such laws are passed as is necessary to carry out his system.

"All parties want to see education thrive in Massachusetts what will become of those orphan such as our Honorable secretary pick up down to Salem without something bearing resemblance to what I have been saying, why not take care of these things by the school districts it is much cheaper," &c. "it seems to me this will raise the lower end & bring them all into a solid phalanx to march onward and upward together and not have them scattered from Dan to Beheba. It seems to me this will not only be the best way but the cheapest way, for I know something about the value of money as means to ends & this is another reason why I ask you to divide the Fund," &c.

"To the Committee on Education ;

"The Free-school party call for the dissolution of the Board of Education so far as its connexion with the government so as to leave it on the same footing as Colleges Academies & Other self sustaining institution of Learning by Subscription or Petitions with direct appropriations from the Government the same right belonging to the common schools

"the first incroachment noticed was a Law to to compel the Towns & Cities to establish high Schools under a heavy penalty for noncompliance an Act entirely inconsistent with the locality of the Rural Districts centralizing all the advantages in the central part of the Town where those most needing the benefit was least likely to get it." — "In the next place it seems to be necessary to have another tax upon the rights of the inhabitants of the state especially upon the Rural districts & towns by passing an Act to compel Towns and Cities to choose a number of Town Comitymen with a large fine for non-compliance that has full power to pull down Schoolhouses and build new ones according to their will or better judgement in accordance with the act past at the Annual Session in the Session of the Legislature of 1859 this Town Committee seems to be well adapted to carrying out the purposes of centralisation of the power in a few men to spread Normal School Teachers over the State to the disadvantage of our Children who have got their education from other institutions of Learning. —

"in regard to the School Fund we ask for an equal distribution among the Cities and Towns according to the number of Scholars & to be kept as a permanent fund for the Common schools as appropriate & no part of it diverted to no other purpose."

One of the newspapers of Boston expressed regret that these precious literary specimens were made public, out of deference to the ignorance of their authors. We have no sympathy with such regrets. It is too late, certainly in Massachusetts, to maintain that forth-putting ignorance shall not be shown up. Of such ignorance, most emphatically, did



the Saviour utter that memorable prediction, "There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed, and hid that shall not be known." These petitioners voluntarily put themselves forward as persons of too much consideration in the questions in debate to be kept wholly out of sight. They assuredly courted notice; and how mistaken the sympathy that would conceal the very proofs they have themselves furnished of their incapacity to establish a new and better school system than that already in successful operation! Such sympathy and silence is really a fatal concession to ignorance. It is a virtual acknowledgment that folly may as well govern as wisdom. It is really treachery to truth. For though one may rightly feel compassion for others' ignorance, and throw over it the charitable mantle of silence, when chargeable to no fault or unfaithfulness in its subject, not so when this ignorance stalks abroad amidst ample light and opportunities, — when it deals in unfounded obloquy and reproach, — when it rashly charges on men of tried integrity the basest corruption, as on the Board of Education, to quote once more from those choice papers before the Legislative Committee, that they "are prodigating the people's money, and sticking their hands into the money, up to their elbows, till their eyes stick out with fat," — when, in short, with unblushing effrontery, it would make the wrong appear the better reason. The whole matter in question, referred to a Committee of the Legislature, has been fully considered in an able report, in which the intelligence, the good learning, and good sense of our beloved old Commonwealth seems to have arisen and crushed out these abortive attempts to undermine the fair fabric of our Public Schools. The charges brought against the Massachusetts Board of Education are shown to be false and unfounded; and the whole work which it is carrying on, — its Normal Schools, Institutes, Agencies, its Scholarships for the needy and deserving, and its use of the public funds, most triumphantly vindicated.

The Secretary of the Board, Hon. George S. Boutwell, in his late Annual Report, the fourth which he has presented, discusses very ably the comparative merits of the present



municipal system fast spreading through the State, with the old school-district system, to which the petitioners above noticed pray a return. He says, that though entering "upon the duties of his office with some faith in the district system, his observation and experience have destroyed that faith entirely." "It is a system," he declares, "admirably calculated to secure poor Schools, incompetent teachers, consequent waste of public money, and yet neither committees nor districts nor towns be responsible therefor." The false charges above alluded to are here, also, successfully refuted; and we commend the admirable Report of the Secretary, with the accompanying Annual State School Documents bound with it, to the notice of teachers and of all interested in the Schools. A copy is sent from the State Department to each School for general perusal.

We are happy to add that the present efficient Secretary, Hon. George S. Boutwell, though tendering his resignation, has been re-elected, and consents to continue in office for the present, and prepare a Supplementary Report for the use of School Committees, based upon the Revised Statutes of 1859.

## CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

The regular examinations have been held at the close of each school term, — in July, November, and February last. We will lay before you a particular account of the fortunes and progress of each School through the past year.

With much yet to be done, — with many faults yet to be remedied, many deficiencies to be supplied, — we have still seen in the survey of the year, and do now see, very much for satisfaction and encouragement, very much to reflect credit on the Town that has so liberally provided for the great interests of learning.

## ENGLISH AND CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL.

ACADEMY HILL.

*Established May, 1841.*

Principals (successively), Mr. John Ruggles, native of Milton, and Mr. Lucius Henry Buckingham, native of Boston.



Assistant, Miss Anna J. George, native of Plymouth, N. H.

*Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	63.	Boys, 29;	Girls, 34.
Belonging at the close,	56.	" 24;	" 32.
Present,	52.	" 24;	" 28.
Average attendance,	50.	" 23;	" 27.

This School, when first established, occupied the Academy, on Academy Hill, a building erected by a private corporation, a few years before, for a select School. The male and female departments occupied different stories. Mr. Ruggles was the first Principal, and Miss Delia Ann Gardner, of Bolton, was the first Preceptress. The establishment of such a public School in 1841 was a great advance beyond the school advantages in towns around us, or through the State. Some of our early Reports speak erroneously of these two departments as two High Schools. In 1842 the School was removed to the first story of the Town Hall, then just completed, a partition dividing the two departments. Miss Gardner resigned her situation at the close of the Fall Term, 1842, and Miss Maria L. Eastman was her successor. In March, 1844, she relinquished the office, from ill health, and Miss S. A. W. Davis was appointed, and continued till July, 1847. Miss Sarah E. Waugh was then Assistant a few weeks, until the School was returned to the Academy, in which, with reduced numbers, it was under the sole charge of Mr. Ruggles. In 1844, the partition had been removed, and both departments united in one room, with a recitation-room. In September, 1847, the Harvard Grammar School, then first established, took these school-rooms, and the High School was re-opened in the second story of the Academy, in which it had its birth in 1841. It was at length entered, September 1, 1856, in its new building, erected a little south of the Academy, which was then sold and removed to its present site, corner of Washington and Winship Streets, and converted into a hotel.

In the last Report it was stated that Mr. Ruggles had signified his desire to relinquish his office as Principal of



this School. He was, however, re-elected and kindly consented to serve until a successor was chosen. He taught until Saturday noon, April 30, 1859, having been employed here since May 3, 1841, with the exception of one year, as detailed in the last Report. On the occasion of relinquishing his charge, a festival was given by his past and present pupils, and his friends, ladies and gentlemen, at the large hotel in Market Square. The company having assembled at an early hour, Monday evening, May 2d, a rich and valuable silver tea service was presented to Mr. Ruggles. Mr. William Wirt Warren, Counsellor at Law in Boston, resident here, a past graduate of the School and of Harvard University, 1854, first delivered a well-prepared "Memorial," in which he spoke of the graduates of the School, the living and the deceased, the married and those still singly blessed. Mr. Henry Baldwin, Counsellor at Law here, also of the High School, and of Yale College, 1854, made the presentation address in most happy terms, to which, with much emotion, Mr. Ruggles replied. The company adjourned to the dining-hall, where a sumptuous collation was provided. Francis Lyman Winship, Esq., of this town, a former pupil of the School, presided. Rev. Mr. Whitney invoked the Divine blessing. The President, in very appropriate remarks, introduced Mr. Ruggles, who acknowledged in kind terms the grateful honor which was paid him. He was followed by the Chairman of the School Committee, who spoke of the long and faithful services of the late teacher; by William Wirt Warren, Henry Baldwin, George B. Bigelow, S. A. Poor, J. P. C. Winship, Charles T. Dunklee, John Bigelow, who entertained the company with an excellent poem, Michael Norton, George F. Fuller, Edward W. Whittemore, James H. Rice, Lucius **H.** Buckingham, teacher elect, all of this Town, and William E. Richardson of Boston.

The festival was a complete success, as honorable to those who conceived it as to him for whom it was arranged. For some eighteen years he had been teacher here, having instructed but a few years elsewhere, after his graduation at Harvard University, in 1836.



Mr. Buckingham, pupil of the Latin School, Boston, and graduate at Harvard University, 1851, began here May 2d, being called from the charge of a large School in Dorchester. With his accomplished Assistant, Miss George, he has labored very successfully through this portion of his year. With several years' experience as Principal at Dorchester, in the High School, Keene, N. H., and elsewhere, he brings fine scholarship and great earnestness to the work. And the Assistant has been long known and approved with us, for her excellent gifts in other Schools before appointed here, three years since. We spoke, at the first examination, of a want of stillness in the room, especially expected in a School of this character, and at the last two examinations we have noticed improvement in this respect. Tardiness has been reported to us, with daily lists of pupils guilty of this vice; and as this connects so immediately with home and parental oversight, we report it here. We entreat you, parents, as you regard at all the progress of your children, *compel* them (strange, old-fashioned expression) to come punctually and regularly to School. Unless thus regular, they must rank among the poorest scholars, and probably, as men and women, will hereafter be poorest in all ways, since these early habits are most surely determining their after characters. Some cases of misdemeanor have also been reported to us; but for the most part the deportment of the pupils has been highly creditable.

Instruction has been given in the branches hitherto pursued here, embracing the higher English studies, and the Greek, Latin, and French languages. The Committee have directed that more time and attention be given, than during the first and second terms, to the elementary branches, reading, spelling, penmanship, and declamation. By recent reports from some of the best High Schools in the State, we find that attention has been drawn particularly to this subject of more thoroughness in the elementary studies. The last Report of the English and Classical High School at Salem, a School of the highest reputation, and some others which we have perused, insist on the absolute necessity of more and continued care in the elementary branches.



The theory, they tell us, is that pupils entering High from Grammar Schools are so established in the rudiments that they need no longer attend to them. The fact, they assure us, and we knew it before, is otherwise. From another of our most populous cities comes this language concerning the excellent High School: "As a general rule, in the lower branches of school education, those branches in which every successful applicant for admission to the High School should be thoroughly drilled, the pupils of this School are sadly deficient. The difficulty is, that the course of advanced studies is so large that little time can be appropriated for the remedying of defects in rudimental branches." From the amplest testimony, we are satisfied that exercises in reading and spelling, in penmanship and declamation, cannot be safely omitted in High Schools. And we shall look confidently for yet ampler results from the able and devoted services of the Principal and Assistant here. May the School continue, as in the past, to send out well-instructed young men and women. We recall with pride several who have been educated here. Two of the best female teachers at Newton, in the High School and in a Grammar School, are graduates of the Brighton High School. Others are employed very successfully in our own High, Grammar, and Primary Schools, in Boston, Brookline, Worcester, and other places. Harvard University was represented last year, and will be this year, by this School, among those admitted to her privileges.\* At the last examination every boy belonging was present, nearly half of the

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\* Students at present in Harvard University from this Town are, Warren, son of George W. Warren, in the Senior Class; Bigelow, son of Samuel Bigelow, Duncklee, son of Joseph Duncklee, Rice, son of Edmund Rice, in the Junior Class; Stevens, son of Silas Stevens, in the Freshman Class. Whittemore, also a pupil of this School, son of Dr. Whittemore, is still student at West Point. Of the later pupils of the School entered at College, Henry Baldwin, son of Life Baldwin, of Yale College, 1854, has a law office in this town; George B. Bigelow, son of Samuel Bigelow, of Harvard University, 1856, has a law office in Boston; George F. Fuller, son of Granville Fuller, entered at Yale in 1852, and subsequently of the Lawrence Scientific School, in Harvard University, is an Architect in Boston; Michael Norton, son of John Norton, of Harvard University, 1859, is a school-teacher in Boston; William Wirt Warren, son of William Warren, of Harvard University, 1854, has a law office in Boston, and is Town Clerk here.



School, and four of the girls were absent. Satisfactory reason appeared for the absence of three, and one girl was absent, perhaps, for consistency's sake, thinking that, with her, absence had been hitherto the rule, and attendance the exception.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Town Hall, Washington Street. — Established September, 1847.*

Principal, Mr. Solomon A. Poor, native of Gloucester.

Assistant, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, native of Brighton.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	117.	Boys, 70;	Girls, 47.
Belonging at the close,	113.	" 66;	" 47.
Present,	95.	" 53;	" 42.
Average attendance,	90.	" 49;	" 41.

By a resolution, entered in the Records of the School Committee, September 8, 1847, this School was established "the first Grammar School of the Town, under the name of the Harvard Grammar School, in grateful commemoration of John Harvard, founder of the neighboring University at Cambridge, of which Town Brighton formed part until its separate incorporation in 1807."

The School has been under the charge of Mr. Poor since its establishment, with the exception of one year, when he taught a private School here. The Assistant has been employed three years; and, under their care, during the past year it has fully maintained its previous standing. Largest number of pupils entered during any term, 118. We have just found 113 belonging, and 95 present at the examination. Some are quite backward from want of school opportunities before coming to town, and some from irregular attendance. But these do not, by any means, describe the character of the School, as a day's examination must satisfy any one. At the last examination, all the exercises in arithmetic, and some of the other exercises, were assigned and conducted by the Committee. At the November examination, also, the Committee took charge of most of the exercises, and were much gratified at the correctness of



classes instructed both by the Principal and Assistant. They have found the order remarkably good at every visit. Some exercises in book-keeping and composition have been shown. Reading, with definition of words, spelling, grammar, geography, and history complete the circle of studies. The Principal has been indefatigable in his endeavors to discover every case of truancy so incident to Grammar Schools in and around the city, and to bring to condign punishment the unfortunate subjects. The Town, we think, owes him a debt of gratitude for his police services in this capacity. The vice of truancy has been hardly known of late in the School. The want of a more suitable and better located building for this large School has been fully presented above, and we look confidently for better accommodations from the Town, as a return, in part, for very faithful services here rendered by the teachers. At the last examination, we heard every pupil read. Special notice was taken of the attendance of one of the girls, Laura Bates, who, living remote from the School, had not been once absent through the year, nor once for the year and one term previous, while pupil of Primary No. VI.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*North Harvard Street. — Established December, 1848.*

Principals (successively), Mr. John D. Marston, native of Parsonsfield, Me., and Mr. Guilford D. Bigelow, native of Harvard.

Assistant, Miss Mary B. Monto, native of Boston.

Teacher of Music, Mr. Horace Bird of Watertown.

### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	99.	Boys, 56 ;	Girls, 43.
Belonging at the close,	92.	" 52 ;	" 40.
Present,	72.	" 43 ;	" 29.
Average attendance,	80.	" 46 ;	" 34.

Mr. Marston, who had taught here very faithfully and successfully since March, 1855, resigned his situation in December last, to engage in other business, and closed on the 12th. Mr. Bigelow, who had taught in Stephen M.



Weld's Private School, Jamaica Plain, and elsewhere, and had been of late Sub-master in the Prescott Grammar School, Charlestown, was appointed, and began on the 19th. The School having become very large, Miss Monto, formerly a pupil, was appointed Assistant, and began September 8. We have just found 92 pupils belonging, and 72 present. Too much work is attempted here for the number. Abridging this somewhat, by excluding studies not usually pursued in Grammar Schools, but allowed while the School was small, as distant from the High School, we anticipate a successful future from the good beginning of these two new teachers. The disadvantages incident on changing teachers, in a School already successful, have been, in some measure, experienced here. The discipline of the present Principal has been represented to the Committee as too strict. But they, as more impartial observers, perhaps, consider that time and longer experience in the new copartnership of teacher and pupils are removing all grounds of complaint; and at the last examination they were much gratified with the order, with the recitations, conducted alone by the teachers, and with the general management. Classes, instructed in the recitation-room failed to speak loud enough to be heard, generally, by their friends, who attended numerously. At the examination, in November, we witnessed some very beautiful specimens of drawing. One in colored crayons, on the blackboard, by one of the boys, E. W. Frost, attracted attention for its rare beauty. Mr. Horace Bird has continued to instruct in music, as reported last year, and we have been much pleased at each examination, and at other visits, with the good singing of the pupils.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 1.

*North Harvard Street. — Established 1845.*

Principals (successively), Miss Hannah A. Willard, native of Ashby, and Miss Melissa A. Tuxbury, native of Saco, Me. Assistant, Miss Sarah F. Monto, native of Boston. Prudential Committee, Mr. Edward M. Abbott.



*Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	60.	Boys, 32 ;	Girls, 28.
Belonging at the close,	56.	" 32 ;	" 24.
Present,	49.	" 30 ;	" 19.
Average attendance,	47.	" 26 ;	" 21.

Miss Willard resigned her place as Principal, at the close of the first term, for another situation. The School was in the best condition, as regards accuracy in recitations, and order and stillness. During that term 90 pupils had been entered ; 80 belonged at the close, and 78 were present at the examination. Miss Tuxbury, with some experience in teaching at Saco, was approved August 29, and began on the 30th. Some of the most advanced pupils were withdrawn for the Grammar School ; and the School did not appear as well for advancement or order at the November examination as before. The number of pupils being considerably reduced, the services of the Assistant were not required after the second term. Miss Tuxbury has been employed alone the last term ; and we are happy to report so much improvement during this term, in the order and general character of the School, as to recommend the continuance of her services for the coming year.

PRIMARY SCHOOL No. II.

*School Street. — The old North District School.*

Principal, Miss Sarah L. Beane, native of Candia, N. H.  
 Assistant, Miss Emma Amanda Draper, native of Brighton.  
 Prudential Committee not chosen.

*Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	82.	Boys, 49 ;	Girls, 33.
Belonging at the close,	74.	" 47 ;	" 27.
Present,	71.	" 44 ;	" 27.
Average attendance,	70.	" 44 ;	" 26.

This School has been very large and prosperous through the year. At the July and November examinations the numbers entered, belonging and present, as above, were 93, 81, 80, and 91, 86, 82. The Principal is remarkably energetic, and the Assistant faithful and successful. The recitations have been quite correct at each examination ; and the



first class in Colburn's Mental Arithmetic, examined at our recent visit, without books, manifested great proficiency. The order has been good, the spacious main room and the recitation-room neat and in excellent condition. At the first examination one pupil only was absent, out of 80; at the second, four, out of 86; at the last, three, out of 74. The Principal began in December, and the Assistant in September, of 1858, and have labored together happily. We regret that the former now relinquishes teaching, to enter into a different relation, for which we have often found the most successful teachers have been willing to lay down their chosen work.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. III.

*Oak Square. — The old West District School.*

Teacher, Miss Ellen Harris, native of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. William Champney.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	57.	Boys, 29 ;	Girls, 28.
Belonging at the close,	53.	" 28 ;	" 25.
Present,	38.	" 19 ;	" 19.
Average attendance,	39.	" 20 ;	" 19.

A word on the location of this School. The Town, by vote this day, confirmed the name of *Oak Square*, by which the location had become known, and directed the Selectmen to cause the name to be posted here. "All the land owned by the Town, embraced between Washington and Faneuil Streets, at their junction," is so designated, in commemoration of the famous old oak-tree which stood within these limits, quite near the school-house. The State Commissioners appointed in 1837, under Governor Everett's administration, to make a Zoölogical and Botanical Survey of Massachusetts, pronounced this the largest and oldest white oak of their survey. The survey occupied several years. The result was published in a thick octavo volume, drawn up with great care by George B. Emerson, Chairman, and a copy sent to every town in the State. In the copy in the care of our Town Clerk may be found a particular account of the tree. The Commissioners, on the 1st of October, 1845, found its circumference, at the surface of the ground,



twenty-five feet nine inches; at three feet from the ground, twenty-two feet four inches. They report that "*It had probably passed its prime, centuries before the first English voice was heard on the shores of Massachusetts Bay.*" In the trunk, at its base, was a large cavity, capable of containing at once many of the pupils of the School. The tree, which may have been ten or twelve hundred years old, decayed after the Commissioners' Survey more rapidly than they anticipated, and was at length deemed unsafe, by reason of the great size and height, and feeble support at the base. With many regrets, it was cut down May 7, 1855. Several secured pieces of the wood for preservation in private and public cabinets. A fine representation of the tree, from a drawing made by Asa C. Warren, designer, of Boston, and engraved by S. C. Brown, may be found in Gleason's Pictorial Magazine, July 9, 1853. A very beautiful painting was likewise made of it some years before, by Harvey of Boston. A description of the tree may also be found in the Boston Evening Transcript, July 26, 1855.

More famous far was this old oak, for age and size, than the celebrated elm still standing on the Common, the pride of Boston; and our Town has done well thus to bestow the name on these school grounds. We hope the passenger-tickets for the horse-railroad, whose station is on this Square, may bear the same designation.

The good character of this School (Primary School No. III.) suits well the fine location and the neat and beautiful building, first entered September, 1855, in place of one, nearly on the same site, which had been burned the previous spring. The teacher has been employed since December, 1855, and secures remarkable order, instructs well, and shows good penmanship. Singing is not practised here as much as in some of the Primaries. The absences at examination, as shown above, were more than in the great Primary No. II. During the last term the School has been more interrupted by sickness than ever, and this accounted for the absence. At the November examination, four only, out of 53, were absent; and in July, seven, out of 55. We noticed, particularly at our late visit, the very good reading and spelling by five



classes. Rev. Mr. Swazey, in behalf of the Board, reported of the teacher on her beginning, that "We shall expect her to be among the foremost of our teachers after a little more experience." What was then prophecy is now history.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. IV.

*Academy Hill. — Established 1845.*

Principal, Miss Catharine Stearns, native of Lancaster.

Assistant, Miss Mary Elizabeth Wellman, native of Brighton.

Prudential Committee not chosen.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	93.	Boys, 44 ;	Girls, 49.
Belonging at the close,	92.	" 44 ;	" 48.
Present,	82.	" 38 ;	" 44.
Average attendance,	79.	" 39 ;	" 40.

One hundred and thirteen pupils were entered in this, the largest Primary, in the 1st term, of whom 93 belonged at the close. In the 2d term, 90 belonged at the close, and all were present. The Principal has had charge here at two different periods since December, 1847, seven years and a half in all, and with great success. The Assistant began August 31, 1857, and has been very faithful in her office. Much of the foundation she has to lay for the temple of learning, by no means the least important part. We might refer you, for a judgment on this School, to the large company present at each examination, testing the capacity even of this very spacious room. We know these friends have been as much pleased as we at the ready exercises of these children, in reading, spelling, singing, drawing, in recitation of dialogues and select pieces, in arithmetic, geography, and penmanship. A few pupils in Colburn's Mental Arithmetic were more advanced than any we have found in Primaries. Reading, even by the 3d Class, was distinctly heard across the large room. Nor must it be omitted that at the 2d examination, 18 pupils were specially commended for good deportment; and at each of our visits the punctual and regular attendance of many has been noticed. But then, too, in this great company where so many do well, some have done



wickedly, and the faithful teachers bring these things, too, to the notice of the Committee, and kindly aim to reform and cure. Shall the bad deeds of a few change our judgment that the School ranks among the few best Primaries which we have ever known?

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. V.

*Shepard Street. — The old Centre District School.*

Teacher, Miss Mary Jane Hall, native of Northboro'.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Wm. Livermore.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	71.	Boys, 38;	Girls, 33.
Belonging at the close,	71.	" 38;	" 33.
Present,	65.	" 37;	" 28.
Average attendance,	57.	" 33;	" 24.

At the 1st examination, 51 pupils were present, out of 57; and at the 2d, all belonging, 67, and all who had been registered through the term, were present. The teacher has labored at great disadvantage, as the room is quite insufficient for the wants of the School. The necessity of a new building is fully set forth above. At the first two examinations all of the Committee were present; and at the last examination two were present, and they all express great satisfaction with the teacher for her devotion to her work and manifest success. Few, perhaps, in two years and a quarter, the period of her service here, would have done so much. The specimens of drawing on the blackboard are to be commended, not in themselves alone, but as engaging the attention of these small children, who should not be confined to books alone. Pleasant exercises in singing and reciting select pieces. Some of the recitations might be named as remarkably correct, as the first class in arithmetic; the first and third in reading and spelling at the November examination. There has been a steady change for the better as regards order, wherein the School was most deficient when the teacher entered it. The School Register has been well kept, and is the only one returned to the Committee completely made out, especially having the averages for boys' and girls' attendance separately prepared and entered in their place for each School term. This labor, required by



law of the teachers, must be done by the Committee, when they neglect it, before the official returns are sent to the State Department.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. VI.

*Allston Street. — The old East District School.*

Teacher, Mrs. Caroline E. D. Howe, native of Portland, Me.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. Jerome Billings.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	50.	Boys, 33;	Girls, 17.
Belonging at the close,	50.	" 33;	" 17.
Present,	37.	" 23;	" 14.
Average attendance,	40.	" 26;	" 14.

This School has been well reported at each visit of the Committee, all of whom have been present at every examination. In July it was a little larger than now. At that examination, 54 belonged, and 47 were present. In November, 46 belonged, and 42 were present. In July, we found some pupils quite advanced. At the last two examinations, ten of these pupils having been promoted to the Grammar School, there was less advancement; but the exercises by younger pupils have been correct and gratifying. The teacher employed here since November 30, 1857, has admirable gifts for the discipline and instruction of children. In November, the first class in geography, examined by the Committee, on Asia, appeared remarkably well. Few Schools excel this in good order. The children sing pleasantly, and the exercises have been agreeably diversified with their dialogues and speaking. The writing-books have been found neat. A very happy School, we may say to their friends, though a good proportion of them have been present with us at each examination.

#### PAST APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

Expenditures for all School purposes are herewith returned by the Secretary of the Board for the past year.

Town appropriation for Teachers' Wages and	
for Fuel,	\$ 5,650.00
Town's portion of State School Fund, for do.	111.93

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\$ 5,761.93



## Paid for Teachers' Wages :—

In High School, . . . . .	\$ 1,518.18	
In two Grammar Schools, . . . . .	1,936.75	
In six Primary " . . . . .	1,888.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 5,342.93

## Paid for Fuel :—

*Primary No. I. (including Second Grammar School).*

Coal, 18 tons, . . . . .	\$ 99.00	
Charcoal, 76 baskets, \$22.80; Shavings, 50 cts. 23.30		
	<hr/>	\$ 122.30

*Primary No. II.*

Coal, 6 tons, . . . . .	\$ 33.00	
Charcoal, 25 baskets, . . . . .	7.50	
	<hr/>	40.50

*Primary No. III.*

Coal, 4 tons, . . . . .	\$ 22.00	
Charcoal, 31 baskets, . . . . .	9.50	
	<hr/>	31.50

*Primary No. IV. (including High School).*

Coal, 22½ tons, . . . . .	\$ 123.75	
Charcoal, 85 baskets, \$ 25.83; Shavings, \$ 1, 26.83		
	<hr/>	150.58

*Primary No. V.*

Coal, 2 tons, . . . . .	\$ 11.00	
Charcoal, 18 baskets, . . . . .	5.50	
	<hr/>	16.50

*Primary No. VI.*

Coal, 2 tons, . . . . .	\$ 11.00	
Charcoal, 20 baskets, \$ 6; Shavings and Kindlings, \$ 3, . . . . .	9.00	
	<hr/>	20.00

*Harvard Grammar School and Town Hall.*

Coal, 17 tons, . . . . .	\$ 93.50	
Charcoal, 98 baskets, . . . . .	30.10	
	<hr/>	123.60
Total paid for fuel, . . . . .		\$ 504.98

Paid for incidental School expenses, including repairs on School-houses, furnaces, and fences, care of fires and School-rooms, compensation to General and Prudential Committees, print-



ing Report and Notices, books to destitute children, insurance, desks, chairs and settees, all embraced in the Treasurer's Report, under the three heads of Incidental School Expenses,	
Town Officers, and Miscellaneous Charges,	\$ 1,275.67
Paid for wages,	5,342.93
“ fuel,	504.98
Total for all School purposes,	\$ 7,123.58

The following table shows what amount has been expended since 1840 - 41 for wages and fuel, compensation to Committees, and, since 1848 - 49, the total for all school purposes : —

Year.	Wages and Fuel.	Prudential Committee.	General Committee.	For all School Purposes.
1840 - 41	\$ 1,040.08	. .	\$ 79.00	
1841 - 42	1,954.83	. .	101.00	
1842 - 43	1,958.94	\$ 40	58.00	
1843 - 44	1,994.65	40	85.00	
1844 - 45	1,905.28	40	75.00	
1845 - 46	1,730.05	40	75.00	
1846 - 47	2,058.09	60	75.00	
1847 - 48	2,374.17	60	80.00	
1848 - 49	2,731.66	60	74.00	\$ 3,745.10
1849 - 50	3,176.89	60	92.50	3,731.49
1850 - 51	3,244.14	60	120.00	4,017.75
1851 - 52	3,517.63	60	90.00	4,083.79
1852 - 53	3,595.18	60	70.00	4,080.38
1853 - 54	3,978.16	60	80.00	13,349.03
1854 - 55	4,272.29	60	102.00	5,068.08
1855 - 56	4,259.93	60	146.08	10,265.25
1856 - 57	4,899.41	60	125.00	16,347.61
1857 - 58	5,520.90	60	141.00	6,527.15
1858 - 59	5,676.97	60	130.00	6,388.49
1859 - 60	5,847.91	40	150.00	7,123.58

### SCHOOL-CHILDREN.

The number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the first day of May last by the Assessors, according to law, was 673, — males 359, females 314. Some under five and over fifteen attend school. But these ages are assumed for convenience by the Massachusetts Board of Education in their yearly calculations, and



so certified to their Secretary annually by the School Committee of each town. The following table shows the number registered the last term in each School, and the number belonging and present in each at the closing examination; also, the average attendance for each term.

1859 – 60, — 673 children between five and fifteen.

	Registered.	Belonging.	Present.	AVERAGE.		
				1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.
H. S.	63	56	52	54	53	50
H. G. S.	117	113	95	82	80	90
S. G. S.	99	92	72	51	77	80
No. I.	60	56	49	76	59	47
“ II.	82	74	71	77	80	70
“ III.	57	53	38	46	44	39
“ IV.	93	92	82	82	86	79
“ V.	71	71	65	52	58	57
“ VI.	50	50	37	47	43	40
	<u>692</u>	<u>657</u>	<u>561</u>	<u>567</u>	<u>580</u>	<u>552</u>

### AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

The Secretary of the Board of Education, Hon. George S. Boutwell, presents, on the whole, a favorable Report of average attendance through the State, while, as he suggests, “there is great room for improvement.” He desires that “the attention of the people of each town” should be called “to their own condition in this particular,” and appends to the last Report, as usual, statistical tables, from which we lay before you a few facts.

All the cities and towns in the State, 333, are arranged in the order of their average attendance. Brighton is classed 19th. In 18 towns, all remote from cities, the attendance is more regular than with us. In 315 cities and towns it is not so good as with us. No town or city near us stands as well. West Roxbury is 33d; Brookline, 59th; Medford, 80th; Cambridge, 94th; Charlestown, 98th; Quincy, 108th; Somerville, 119th; Roxbury, 126th; Waltham, 127th; Dorchester, 136th; West Cambridge, 139th; Boston, 145th; Lexington, 149th; Salem, 188th; Woburn, 221st; Taunton,



238th ; Watertown, 246th ; Concord, 250th. Erving, a small rural town in Franklin County, stands No. 1, as in the previous year. Pawtucket, in Bristol County, is lowest, 332d ; and there the average attendance was less than one half of the school-children.

## TOWN'S RANK AS TO ITS APPROPRIATION.

From the official tables we find that Brighton holds the same rank as in the previous year, among the 333 towns and cities, in the amount which her appropriation would allow to each school-child. She stands 6th in the State, and 2d among the 52 towns and cities of the county. Her last appropriation for wages, fuel, and care of fires (on which the Secretary's scale is now based), \$5,823.72, would give to each of her children (533), \$10.92. Nahant stands No. 1, as for several years. Her appropriation of \$1,250 giving to each of her 67 children, \$18.67. Brookline stands 2d ; raising for wages, fuel, and care of fires, \$13,100 ; to each of her 717 children, \$18.27. West Roxbury, 3d ; to each child, \$13.86. Dorchester, 4th, \$13.28. Somerville, 5th, \$12.03 ; Brighton, 6th ; Boston, 7th, \$295,569.32 for wages, fuel, and care of fires, to each of her 28,790 children between 5 and 15, \$10.26 ; Watertown, 10th, \$7,000, for 716 children, to each \$9.77 ; Medford, 11th, \$8,000, to 811 children, \$9.76 ; Charlestown, 15th, \$9.46 ; Roxbury, 16th, \$9.44 ; Newton, 22d, \$12,000, for 1,333 children, \$9.00 ; Cambridge, 23d, \$39,100, for 4,372 children, \$8.94 ; Concord, \$3,300, for 423 children, \$7.80 ; Waltham, 37th, \$7,000, for 1,012 children, \$6.91 ; Quincy, 42d, \$8,585, for 1,312 children, \$6.54 ; Salem, 43d, \$6.41 ; Woburn, 73d, \$6,000, for 1,133 children, \$5.29 ; Taunton, 95th, \$14,000, for 2,796 children, \$5.00.

Comparing your own population, and number of school-children with the above returns, you are able to estimate your relative liberality in the support of public Schools.

The rank of this Town, for each year since the Secretary's tables have been prepared, is shown in the 6th column of the following table : —



Year.	Population.	No. of Public Schools.	School- Children.	Appropriation for Wages and Fuel.	Rank in the State.
1837	1,337	4	337	1,000	
1838 - 39	"	4	338	1,200	
1839 - 40	"	4	323	1,200	
1840 - 41	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841 - 42	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842 - 43	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843 - 44	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844 - 45	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845 - 46	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846 - 47	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847 - 48	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848 - 49	"	9	496	2,700	11
1849 - 50	2,356	9	452	3,100	8
1850 - 51	"	9	402	3,500	3
1851 - 52	"	9	445	3,500	6
1852 - 53	"	9	455	3,500	11
1853 - 54	"	9	475	3,900	9
1854 - 55	"	9	500	3,900	10
1855 - 56	2,895	9	612	4,200	25
1856 - 57	"	9	587	4,800	15
1857 - 58	"	9	550	5,300	6
1858 - 59	"	9	533	5,500	6
1859 - 60	"	9	673	5,650	
1860 - 61	"	9	*	6,000	

## CALENDAR.

### *School Terms, Vacations, and Examinations.*

The present School year extends from the last Monday of February, 1860 (27th day), to the last Monday of February, 1861 (25th day). It is divided into three School terms. During the last week of each term the Committee will visit and examine every School. There are eight weeks of vacation, and the following days are prescribed holidays: Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, New Year's Day, Washington's birthday, Fast-day, May-day, Independence-day, Commencement, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The School year begins with a vacation of one week. The first term begins on the first Monday of March (5th day), and extends to the 5th Monday of July (30th day), comprising twenty-

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\* To be ascertained in May.



one weeks. A vacation of five weeks follows. The second term begins on the first Monday of September (3d day), and extends to the fourth Monday of November (26th day), comprising twelve weeks. A vacation of one week follows. The third term begins on the first Monday of December (3d day), and extends to the last Monday of February, 1861 (25th day), comprising twelve weeks.

A recess of one week occurs in the long term, beginning on the fourth Monday of May (28th day), and extending to the first Monday of June (4th day). This recess makes up the eight weeks of vacation. It is not considered as ending a term. When the recess begins, the School Registers are not to be closed up, as they are before each vacation.

The quarter salaries of teachers are payable on the 4th day of June, September, December, 1860, and 23d day of February, 1861. The weekly compensation of teachers is to be paid at the close of each School term, — on the fourth Saturday of July (28th day), on the fourth Saturday of November (24th day), and on the fourth Saturday of February, 1861 (23d day).

#### APPROPRIATION FOR WAGES AND FUEL.

The Committee recommend that the sum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) be raised and appropriated for teachers' wages and fuel for the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted, in behalf of the Committee.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	} <i>Superintending</i>
THEODORE MATCHETT,	
SUMNER ELLIS,	

} *School Committee.*

*Brighton, March 5, 1860.*



## PUBLIC LECTURES.

Lectures have been given the past winter, as usual, at the Town Hall and at Union Hall, alternately, as follows : —

Friday, October 28, Union Hall, by Edwin P. Whipple of Boston, on "Courage;" and a Poem, by George E. Rice of Boston. Monday, October 31, Town Hall, by Rev. A. L. Stone of Boston, on "Our Early New England Homes;" Union Hall, by Rev. Frederic D. Huntington, D.D., of Cambridge, on "Hebrew and Biblical Heroism;" Town Hall, by George Sumner of Boston, on "Old Europe and Young America;" Union Hall, by Hon. Anson Burlingame of Cambridge, on "Progress," repeated by request;\* Town Hall, by Arthur Gilman of Boston, on "Characteristics of New England Humor," second series; Union Hall, by his Excellency Governor Banks, on "The Life and Character of Washington;" Town Hall, by Mrs. Sarah J. Lippincott (Grace Greenwood) of Philadelphia, on "The Men and Women of Twenty Years Hence, the Children of To-day;" Union Hall, by Rev. T. Starr King of Boston, on "The Laws of Disorder," repeated by request;\* Town Hall, by George H. Gordon of Boston, on "Personal Adventures among the Sioux Indians;" Union Hall, by Rev. Frederic A. Whitney of Brighton, on "The Hope of the Present Age," repeated by request;\* Town Hall, by Henry F. Durant of Boston, on "James Otis;" Union Hall, by Rev. Sumner Ellis of Brighton, on "Mahomet;" Union Hall, by Rev. Charles Noyes of Brighton, on "Popular Objections to Christianity;" Town Hall, by Rev. Edward H. Chapin, D.D., of New York, on "The Orders of Nobility;" Union Hall, by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher of Brooklyn, N. Y., on "Politics and Religion."

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\* Once read in the Town Hall.







TWENTY-THIRD

13186  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

2358  
OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR

1860-61.

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CAMBRIDGE:

PRINTED AT THE CHRONICLE OFFICE.

1861.







TWENTY-THIRD

63186

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OF

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# REPORT.

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THE School Committee of Brighton, in submitting to the citizens their Twenty-Third Annual Report for the year 1860 – 61, refer, first, with much satisfaction, to public improvements made, the past year, in the

## ERECTION OF NEW SCHOOL-HOUSES.

In the last Report it was stated that all the schools in town, with three exceptions, were accommodated in new and spacious School-Houses with the best modern furniture. It was recommended that of the three exceptions, two, the Harvard Grammar School and Primary No. V. be forthwith provided with edifices corresponding to those which had already been built. Thus but a single School-building should be found in the town which had been erected more than six years. And this single exception, it was, moreover, stated, was a building sufficient in size and accommodations for the number of pupils which it contained, being Primary No. VI., on Allston Street, the smallest School reported.

Agreeably to the above recommendation a Committee consisting of Messrs. Horace W. Jordan, Washington C. Allen, and Benjamin F. Pierce, chosen at the annual meeting in March last, reported to the town in April, in favor of the immediate purchase of land and erection of two School-Houses, which should be better situated than on the other sites. It was then voted to purchase for Primary No. V., located on Shepard Street, a lot of land on Union Street, opposite the head of Shepard, containing nearly one and three quarter acres, and owned by Messrs. Horace W. Jordan and Horace W. Baxter,



for \$1,423.79; and for the Harvard Grammar School, hitherto occupying at great inconvenience, one story of the Town Hall, on Washington Street, a lot of land on Winship Place, Agricultural Hill, containing 24,259 feet, a little more than half an acre, and owned by Stephen H. Bennett, for fifteen hundred dollars. On learning that the latter lot was desired for the new Grammar School-House, Mr. Bennett at the same meeting generously presented the land as a gift to the Town; and has thus honorably enrolled his name among that best class of public benefactors who, endowed with ample means, bestow, during their life-time, a portion of the same for the benefit of their fellow men.

### PUBLIC SCHOOL BENEFACTORS.

It is not known to your Committee that more than two individuals have ever made bequests to the Town for the benefit of the Schools;—Mr. Bennett, with the past year, and in earlier times, Mr. Ebenezer Smith, who, by his Will, dated May 2, 1774, and presented for Probate January 17, 1776, made a generous devise in aid of indigent school children. In accordance with a desire expressed by several citizens, a brief notice of both these public donors is herewith presented.

Stephen Hastings Bennett was born at East Boylston, in this State, February 3, 1800,—son of Elias and Sarah (Hastings) Bennett. He came here when a young man; and by industry and perseverance, secured an ample estate. He married here, November 29, 1827, Elizabeth daughter of Jonathan and Martha (Robbins) Livermore, and has ever manifested a lively interest in the welfare and prosperity of the Town. In connection with his recent donation, the following Resolution from the School Record may be here inserted:—

“ IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, February 23, 1861.

“ Whereas, in March last, our fellow townsman, Stephen Hastings Bennett, generously presented to the Town a lot of land on Winship Place, Agricultural Hill, as a site for a new edifice for the Harvard Grammar School, said lot measuring nearly twenty-five thousand feet; and whereas we deem



it just and well that those who through a liberal spirit thus prove themselves benefactors to the Town, should be gratefully commemorated. Therefore —

“*Resolved*, That the Harvard Grammar School shall hereafter be known as the Bennett Grammar School; and that the name which it has hitherto borne in honor of John Harvard, founder of the University at Cambridge, of which place this Town made part until its separate incorporation in 1807, shall be transferred to the second Grammar School located on North Harvard Street, and that School shall henceforth bear the name of the Harvard Grammar School.”

Ebenezer Smith, the other School Benefactor, was a man of very large estate who lived and died in this place, then the south part of Cambridge. The house which he owned and occupied at his decease, is still standing, probably one of the oldest in Town. It is on a street which has not yet been named, (in his time, the avenue to his house) running from Rockland to Winship Street, now forming the northern boundary of the Estate of Mr. Life Baldwin. Many will recollect a large, old fashioned, unpainted house, projecting quite upon the street, which was seen here until the summer of 1852, when it was purchased by Mr. Cephas Brackett, moved back on a line with some later houses adjacent, raised up, a brick basement in the rear added, the large old chimney taken down, the massive front door supplanted by two doors of modern style, windows removed, and the weather-beaten edifice, which could tell its tale of the Revolution, when its venerable owner, nearly ninety years of age, and of sturdy frame, was sitting in his armed chair, in the east room in plaid gown and cap, — the frequent costume of aged men, — converted into two tenements.

Mr. Smith was never married. At the time of his decease, a niece, Lois Brown, was his housekeeper; and to her he bequeaths a small house on Rockland Street, where now stands the house occupied by Mr. William T. Osborn, and also a tract of land, and one quarter part of his personal estate. He was the son of Henry and Lydia (Buck) Smith, whose marriage is found in the old Town Records, at Cambridge, March 3, 1673. His birth is there given, March 9, 1683. The slab over his



tomb, in our old Cemetery, bears this inscription which, almost obliterated, was a few years since recut : —

I N T O M B E D

Mr. Ebenezer Smith, who died

Sept. 11th, 1776 Æt. 85.

This, as a testimony of gratitude and esteem, is here inscribed by the Parish Society to which he was a Friend and Benefactor.

Here lies ẏ body of

MRS. SARAH SMITH

ẏ wife of MR. HENRY

SMITH who died

June 8, 1769, Æt. 89.

Intombed is the body of MISS SALLY

JACKSON of Newton, who died 6th

—— 1788, Aged 34.

The month is illegible, but was June or July. Mrs. Smith was wife of his brother Henry ; Miss. Jackson was his great niece.

His Will presented for Probate, as above stated, Jan. 17, 1776, (which date, reckoning the year from March, would follow the date of his death,) is a well prepared and somewhat voluminous document. It conveys to over twenty persons, some two hundred acres of land, in separate parcels, a large part of it adjacent to his homestead, with houses and various buildings, also several pews in the old church here, and personal property. After these various bequests, the entire remainder of his large estate is divided into three portions, and bequeathed one to his niece Sarah, wife of Lieutenant Timothy Jackson of Newton, one to Nathaniel Sparhawk (who married for his first wife Lydia Blake, Mr. Smith's niece, and was father to our Patriarch Mr. Edward Sparhawk, now in his ninety-first year, yet healthy and hale) and one to his nephew, Nathaniel Thwing.



By the ninth clause of his Will, Mr. Smith gives to the First Parish, which then comprised the whole Place, forming the Third Parish or Precinct of Cambridge, a house, barn, and one acre of land, then on the East corner of Rockland and Washington Streets, together with a legacy in money for the use of the Ministry. Many will recall this old Parsonage, with its antique roof, with its pleasant grass-plot in front, covered with trees and shrubbery. The block occupied by Dr. Whittemore and Mr. Buckingham, and the large building contiguous, were erected on this garden, concealing the old Parsonage behind. This latter was, in 1851, turned upon its cellar and made to front on Washington Street, instead of Rockland; the ancient roof was replaced by one of modern style; the pillars added; the entire building remodelled and converted into two separate tenements, and is now owned by Mr. Artemas Cushman. The Parish, previously to the change of the building, had sold the property and invested the proceeds. The entire income of Mr. Smith's legacy now yields the Parish about one sixth part of its current expenses.

The seventeenth clause of Mr. Smith's Will is in these words:—

“I give and bequeath forever hereafter about six acres and one quarter of woodland in Newton, bounded, westerly, on land belonging to the heirs of Caleb Dana, Esq., deceased, — northerly on the land of Lieutenant Josiah Greenwood, easterly on the land of Thomas Gardner, southerly on the land of Jonathan Fenno, for the use and benefit of the School in Cambridge, on the south side of Charles River, — said wood to be distributed amongst such poor children belonging to said School as my executors shall think proper. I also authorize and empower my executors, if they see cause, to sell said six acres and three\* quarters of land and convert the proceeds thereof to the benefit of said children in the way and manner of procuring firewood, as they shall think proper, and, after the decease of my Executors, for the use and benefit of said School in general.”

We may be permitted to suggest that the street, on which

\* This contradiction of measure stands so in the original will.



still stands the house, in which Mr. Smith lived and died, should bear his name. This would seem but a rightful token of regard from the town to its early and generous benefactor. We are happy to see in the Report of the Selectmen for the present year, a grateful notice of Mr. Smith, and to learn, also, from their Report, that his tomb in our old Burying-Ground on Market Street, has been recently repaired by the Town. Sarah Smith, his niece, married as above stated, Lieutenant Timothy Jackson, of Newton, and was the grandmother of the late William Jackson, of Newton, and of Francis Jackson, of Boston. These gentlemen, it is understood, had expressed a desire to repair the tomb of their respected kinsman. It is to be hoped that so long as his ashes rest in the grounds of the Town, which might well give him many tombs, no kinsman will ever be called to this filial service. Many families in this Town and elsewhere, connect with him,—among whom are the names of Adams, Blake, Brown, Dana, Fowl, Holton, Jackson, Knight, Learned, May, Smith, Spear, Thwing, White, Woodward, and others, many, whose names have been changed by marriage. When the wood shall have been cut off from the acres he bequeathed to the town, and the land be required for house lots in Newton, its increased value may perhaps, so swell our School funds, as to cause the school children of the coming generations still to rise up and call him blessed.

## COST AND COMPLETION OF NEW SCHOOL- HOUSES.

An appropriation was made at the annual meeting in April, for building two School-Houses, as detailed above, on Union Street and on Winship Place, — Agricultural Hill, — and the work was entrusted to the same Committee, Messrs. Jordan, Allen, and Pierce, who reported the sites. They conferred with the School Committee as directed, and visited with them Several School-Houses in the vicinity. The Building Committee have presented the town with two edifices most satisfactory, we are sure, to all. The buildings reflect much honor alike



upon the Committee who have generously devoted so much of their time and care to the service of the town, and to the several contractors and workmen who have been employed. The Master-builder of the Bennett Grammar School-House was Mr. Albert N. Gowell, and of Primary No. V., Mr. Alanson T. Brewer, both of this town. The painting of the former building was done by Mr. Henry Russell, of Watertown, and of the latter, by Mr. James M. Williams, of this town. The masonry of both was by Mr. George W. Wentworth, of this town. The cellars of both, the grading and wall in front of No. V., was by John Norton, also, of this town. The architect employed on the Bennett Grammar School-House for plans and supervision of the work, was Mr. Charles O. Holyoke, of Boston. In beauty of design, in the excellence of its heating and ventilating apparatus, in convenience and comfort, and general effect, occupying as it does, a most commanding site, this spacious School-House, we think, is surpassed by few in the State. The frame was raised September 6, 1860, and the House was first occupied in its three departments this day, Monday, March 4, — after the vacation of one week, with which the school year opens. Primary No. V. was first occupied by the School, Monday, Dec. 24, 1860.

The School Committee were charged with the work of furnishing these two buildings, and they report the entire expense of both.

*Cost of Primary No. V.*

Land of Messrs. Jordan and Baxter, as by deed,	\$1,423.79
Contract for the building with Alanson T. Brewer,	2,600.00
Wm. O. Haskell, 48 Primary Desks and Chairs, (single) at 2.50 . . . . .	120.00
Wm. O. Haskell, 16 Primary Desks and Chairs, (double) at 4.00 . . . . .	64.00
Wm. O. Haskell, 4 Settees (36 feet) at 50cts. per foot.	18.00
“ “ “ 4 Teachers' cane-seat armed chairs, at 1.75, . . .	7.00
Amount carried forward, . . . . .	<u>\$4,232.79</u>



Amount brought forward, . . . . .	\$4,232.79
Wm. O. Haskell, 1 Teacher's Black Walnut Table, . . . . .	10.00
Hiram Cushman, carting new furniture and old to new house, . . . . .	5.69
Alanson T. Brewer, putting down desks and chairs, and for recitation seats, . . . . .	34.15
Thomas W. Brown, iron brackets for recitation seats, . . . . .	3.85
Francis H. Ellis, painting and varnishing furniture from old house, . . . . .	3.00
George B. Stockwell, stoves, funnel, and water-dish, . . . . .	77.25
Edward P. Dutton & Co., black-board rubbers, . . . . .	1.67
John Norton, building wall, drawing stone, grading, &c., . . . . .	227.50
Alanson T. Brewer, building fence, . . . . .	37.18
Total, . . . . .	<u>\$4,633.08</u>

It will be seen that if the cost of land, wall, fence and grading, \$1,688.47, be deducted from this sum, the Building Committee expended less on the House all furnished than their appropriation.

*Cost of the Bennett Grammar School-House,*

Paid for the building, including furnace, {		\$6,675.00
Albert N. Gowell, Contractor, }		
Services of Architect, . . . . .		150.00
Wm. O. Haskell, 100 single desks (Gram. School) at \$3.25 . . . . .		325.00
Wm. O. Haskell, 64 single desks and chairs (Gram. School) at \$3.87½ . . . . .		248.00
Wm. O. Haskell, 1 Teacher's table desk, . . . . .		20.00
" " " 2 Assistants' " " . . . . .		24.00
" " " 14 Teacher's cane-seat arm-chairs, at \$1.75 . . . . .		24.50
Wm. O. Haskell, 12 settees (108 feet) at 45 cts. per foot, . . . . .		48.60
Albert N. Gowell, 23 iron brackets for recitation seats, . . . . .		11.50
" " " putting down desks and chairs, 3 rooms, and taking up old chairs, . . . . .		49.75
Amount carried forward, . . . . .		<u>\$7,576.35</u>



Amount brought forward, . . . . .	\$7,576.35
Albert N. Gowell, expense to Boston for brackets, . . . . .	.30
Hiram Cushman, carting 7 loads furniture and iron desk- standards from Boston, and two loads from old School-House, . . . . .	21.50
Francis H. Ellis, scraping, painting and varnishing 100 School chairs, a desk and table, . . . . .	11.00
Henry Russell, painting, graining and varnishing 12 settees from old house, . . . . .	10.37
Washington C. Allen, 57 feet matting, at 20 cts., . . . . .	11.40
Charles White, 8 door-scrapers and putting down, . . . . .	5.00
	<hr/>
	\$7,635.92
Land, gift of Mr. Bennett, estimated . . . . .	1,500.00
	<hr/>
Value of House furnished, with land, . . . . .	\$9,135.92

A bill of eight dollars from E. F. Rogers, entered in the Treasurer's Report with the cost of this School-House, should have been set under the Second Grammar School (the brick house, — which has often been loosely called the new School House). The bill read "for cleaning and repairing furnace in new School-House," and so was inadvertently set with this newest of all the School-Houses. The mistake shows the importance of mentioning distinctly in every bill *the name* of the School-House to which it relates.

The Building Committee have contracted for a fence dividing and enclosing the grounds of the Bennett Grammar School-House, which will complete the work.

It is in place here to state that as some offset to the expense of these two excellent edifices, the Town has for disposal the land and Primary School-House, No. V., on Shepard Street — and also the rooms in the Town Hall, lately occupied by the Harvard Grammar School. Article eight in the Warrant for the Annual Meeting, this month, submits to the Town the question what disposal shall be made of this property.



## TEACHERS.

Fifteen teachers have been employed during the past year, namely, Messrs. Buckingham, Poor, Bigelow, and Misses George, Waugh, Monto, Tuxbury, Child, Draper, Harris, Stearns, Collins, Wellman, Hall, and Mrs. Howe. Changes have occurred, only, in Primaries Nos. II. and IV., and there by the resignation of their Principals at the close of the previous year. The teachers have labored, of course, with different measures of success, but all, we believe, with commendable aims and efforts. Their intercourse with the Committee has been most agreeable; and they have manifested, at all times, entire readiness in adopting and carrying out the suggestions and wishes of the Board. The stated meetings of the teachers for mutual conference and improvement mentioned in the last Report, have been held through the year; and many valuable hints and encouragements afforded thereby. Our teachers have been present, likewise, at the Middlesex County Teachers' Association, and it is understood that the sixteenth semi-annual meeting of this Association will be held in this Town in April next. They have been represented at other public meetings for the discussion of questions concerning the interests of education, and the improvement of Public Schools. They have attended the

## LECTURES OF PROFESSOR AGASSIZ,

at the neighboring University, given, through the munificence of the State, to her Public School Teachers, at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. As all may not be familiar with this grand bequest which has been recently made at Cambridge for the promotion of science, and, in the benefits of which the Public School Teachers of the State are to share, a word may be added here. For founding this magnificent enterprise, about seventy-two thousand dollars were raised by subscription; to which was added the princely gift of fifty thousand dollars made for the same object by William Gray, at the wish, and from the estate of his uncle, the late Francis C. Gray. The State, by an act, passed April 2, 1859, added a grant of one



hundred thousand dollars, payable under certain conditions, from the avails of the sales of land belonging to the Commonwealth in the Back Bay, making in all two hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars. The College donated a tract of land; and, from the funds contributed by subscription, a large commodious brick building has been erected to receive the collections, and has been fitted up with its various lecture-rooms and apartments, for the purposes of instruction. Articles of agreement were executed at Boston, June 14, 1859, between the Trustees of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, on one part, acting through their President, His Excellency Governor Banks and the President and Faculty of Harvard College, on the other part, acting through President Walker of the University. Of these rules and regulations the ninth is in these words: —

“ It shall be the duty of the Curator, under the control and direction of the Faculty of the Museum, to fix suitable times, and also suitable places within the Museum, to give lectures and instruction to regular classes of students under his care, to classes of teachers of the Public Schools, and to classes of pupils in the Normal Schools, in the Commonwealth, and to such special classes of students and persons desirous of availing themselves of his instructions and of the advantages of the Museum, as he may receive or invite for those purposes.”

In conformity with these rules and regulations, the first course of Lectures on Geology was opened by Professor Agassiz on the twenty-third of October last. A favorable opportunity is thus afforded the teachers of our Public Schools to profit by the instructions of the first of living Naturalists. Louis Agassiz, Professor of Zoölogy and Geology in the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University and Curator of the Museum is acknowledged both in this country and abroad, to be without a peer in his department of science, in the world. In the best days of Greece and Rome the Academies and Porches, where the philosophers discoursed, were filled with admiring pupils who deemed that at the cost of many sacrifices, their attendance might well be purchased. We trust that our teachers will as gladly avail themselves of the instructions of this rare



scientific philosopher who will guide them, as few others have been able, amidst the wonders of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, and inspire each willing, teachable mind, as few lecturers have been able to do, with a profounder reverence for the works and the ways of God.

The teachers have, also, been interested in contributing to the fund for the

### STATUE OF HORACE MANN.

The friends of this wise and brave reformer of our Public Schools, this devoted patron to the last, of public education, having engaged his statue to be wrought in bronze by one of our native artists, and the State having generously enacted that it should be erected in her State House grounds, on the site corresponding and opposite to that occupied by her great Statesman Webster, the Public Schools have been invited to co-operate. By contributions in our several schools, together with their own subscriptions, our teachers have done more than their allotted share among all the cities and towns of the Commonwealth towards the contemplated expense, — about ten or twelve thousand dollars. Some have already secured the handsomely framed portraits of Mr. Mann, which are pledged for each individual subscription of five dollars, that they may be hung in the School-rooms. May the sight of this noble brow and benignant countenance, looking down upon the children engaged in their school tasks, incite them to perseverance alike in study and in virtue. May the lessons of his martyr-life be so impressed on their young hearts, that they may strive to emulate his example; and thus prove themselves worthy the toil and sacrifice of one, who, often through unmerited obloquy and reproach, went steadily forward to his grave with his one noble aim to train the young, and thus to elevate humanity, through simple obedience to the laws of God.

### EXAMINATIONS AND STATE OF THE SCHOOLS.

We proceed to detail the condition of the several schools as they have appeared at the regular examinations held, as usual,



at the close of each school term, in July, November and February, and at our various visits, of which no notice was given. None can be more sensible than ourselves, how much is yet wanting both in system and practice, in our Schools, to fulfil the high standard which has been raised of late, through wise and faithful educational efforts, in our Commonwealth. Yet to intimate that a year's survey of this important field has not revealed very much to be honorably reported, would be as false as to say that the condition of all was entirely satisfactory. Improvement and progress through all the workings of this complicated system, is still to be the watchword. And the Committee must be congratulated that they have found so much readiness on the part of the town to second in all ways, their suggestions and counsels, and to co-operate in the good cause especially entrusted in their hands.

## ENGLISH AND CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL. -

*Academy-Hill, — Established May, 1841.*

Principal, Mr. Lucius Henry Buckingham, native of Boston.  
Assistant, Miss Anna J. George, native of Plymouth, N. H.

### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	55.	Boys, 23 ;	Girls, 32.
Belonging at the close,	47.	“ 22 ;	“ 25.
Present,	44.	“ 20 ;	“ 24.
Average attendance,	45.	“ 20 ;	“ 25.

The Committee were all present on the ninth of March, 1860, at the examination of Grammar School pupils for admission to the High School. The teachers were not present. Printed questions, as heretofore, were used, that all embarrassment and confusion might be spared the pupils by not being required to speak, and that equal and entire justice might be done to all. Twenty-one pupils were presented from the Harvard Grammar School, of whom eleven were admitted, and ten from the Second Grammar School, of whom eight were admitted. The elementary branches have received more attention in this



School, than in the previous year. Our estimate of these branches, even in a High-School, was fully expressed in the last Report. For if correct spelling, for instance, be thought by any a minor acquisition, surely incorrect spelling is a disgrace to the scholar. Reading, spelling, and penmanship have been attended to by all the pupils. Classes in book-keeping and in geometry will be again formed with the opening term. The Committee desire, while affording opportunity here, for all who wish it to pursue the classical course, and be fitted for College, to furnish, likewise, a thorough practical education. It is a privilege we can hardly prize enough, that there should be a School of this character in our midst, where the poorest boy if he but has the inclination and capacity, may prepare himself for the University. And especially is this privilege to be appreciated now, when our University is affording so much aid for needy students, so that a deserving young man may be sure of such assistance as shall enable him to complete his education. But with this great advantage, we desire that both for boys and girls, our High School shall furnish the means for acquiring a good English education.

We would increase the interest in the Natural Sciences, which, next to the great essentials, good reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, — are wanted to store and elevate the youthful mind. A class was presented at the last examination quite interested in chemistry. This is a most important study, useful not alone to the professional student, but to the mechanic with his tools, the trader with his goods, — the farmer with his soils, — the artizan, — in short, to man in every calling and pursuit, and to woman, whether dealing with her cottons, silks and woollens, — whether cooking in her kitchen, or as mother, in the nursery. But we know that this study requires, in order to be prosecuted successfully, some apparatus, at least some simple chemicals. The Committee are very desirous to furnish the School, this year, with some useful school apparatus. The teachers, who are much interested in their work, competent and devoted, ask this at our hands. And we recommend that an appropriation be made by the town for the purchase of suitable apparatus for this School



under the direction of the Committee. Its benefits, we doubt not, will be returned a hundred-fold, through the community. The young man who is to be fitted here for the counting-room, for the marts of trade, for any business or occupation, in short, will go far better prepared for the insight which he may have gained by the aid of some simple apparatus, in the natural and physical sciences.

Classes have been instructed in reading, spelling, penmanship, English composition, arithmetic, algebra, natural history, chemistry, physical geography, general history, English grammar, and analysis, and in the Latin, Greek, and French languages. The Principal began here, May 2, 1859, and the Assistant, March 31, 1857. The Committee have seen much to commend at the several examinations. They have missed the exercises in

### DECLAMATION,

which, under the former Principal,\* were so spirited, and really so well, and which, of themselves, attracted many friends of the pupils to the annual Examination. Perhaps no exercise is, on the whole, more distasteful to boys in a school than training in elocution. It was so to us when boys. But, like medicine, we had to take it, and lived to thank our Teachers for it. But in a School of this character it must be attended to, whatever boys may urge, or parents, without much thinking of the matter, may fondly allow in excuse. We see not how any judicious Committee, intrusted with the management of such a School as this for the benefit of the whole community, could consent to waive such an important branch as Declamation. Why what a crying shame to them, and to the School and its Teachers, if a scholar, going out at last, though well trained in other studies, should, if called to speak before his fellow men at the public meeting, show himself a booby, because, forsooth, it used to embarrass him to declaim before his

\* The present Secretary of the Board, who was then that Principal, says, That when the Report was read in Committee, he did not hear these twelve words. Perhaps the Chairman omitted them in the reading.



teachers and schoolmates, and he was excused. Oh, better, instead of hearing from parents, "Please excuse my son from declamation," to hear, as we once heard from a wise father, "I usually require of my son, after giving him his supper, that he reward me by as handsome a recitation in my parlor, or hall, as he can give of Hamlet's Advice to the Players, or of Bryant's Thanatopsis, or of Webster on the Union, or something else which he may have recited at school. We both sleep better for it, and I know it will tell on his future." We recommend that the Committee, for the coming year, attend occasionally the stated declamations in this School, manifesting their appreciation of this great accomplishment — necessity, we may call it; and doubtless at the next annual Examination, there will not be wanting some Demosthenes with his fire, or some Cicero with his grace, to gratify the assembly. Do you not recall such here, in the past?

### LEAVING THE SCHOOL TOO SOON.

Regrets are unpleasant things; let them all come together. The Committee regretted that several pupils had left, before the close of the Summer Term, — some to return at the opening of the Fall Term, — and so were not seen at the July Examination. Some, too, appear to enter the High School for the mere name, and drop off, shortly, without availing themselves of the full advantages of its course of study. Now simply shirking an examination, can never be so polished up as to be made exactly an honorable transaction in itself, and it does injustice to the teachers. And the pupils, who dissolve their connection with the School prematurely, do injustice to themselves. We always regret to see a great disparity between the number of names entered on the Register for a term, and the number of pupils actually belonging to the School. On this subject, a recent complaint of the School Committee, in one of our neighboring cities, is in place, expressed in these words: — "An apparent want of interest on the part of parents, to give their sons and daughters the benefits of the full course in the High School. One class, which numbered fifty-four when it left the



Grammar School, at the close of its first year in the High School, had dwindled to twenty-one. Another class, of thirty-seven, was represented by nine at the close of the second year; and another, still, of forty members, had but three to take up the studies of the fourth year." As misery loves company, let this borrowed Jeremiade stand here to comfort any, parents or pupils, if such there are among us, who are conscious that through want of proper interest and encouragement on their own part, the full benefits of the High School have been lost by hasty withdrawal from its discipline and studies.

### ATTENDANCE, ORTHOGRAPHY, READING, AND ORDER.

The attendance for the last term, as may be seen from the average given, has been remarkably good. In the first term, likewise, four pupils were not once absent, or tardy; and in the second term, the attendance was favorably reported, especially in regard to tardiness. To increase the interest in Orthography, the Principal offered prizes to the best two spellers in the third and fourth classes, which were awarded, in the first term, to Helen A. Leavitt and Isabel Brackett; in the second term, to Lois A. Smith and to Sarah E. Stimpson; and, in the third term, to Horace Duncklee and George F. Ellis. At the last Examination, held, as usual, through the day, we heard every pupil read. At the close of the exercises, we listened with pleasure to select readings by seven of the girls, the last of which was an original valedictory poem by Mary E. Nutting, and all of which manifested good taste in the selection, composition, and style of reading of the pupils. The order of the School has been very creditable. As an aid in the singing, we think a Pianoforte would be of great benefit in this School. We have seen the good effects of such an instrument in the Second Grammar School, where one has been in use, hired by the pupils, for some time past. And as the High School is designed for pupils from every section of the town, and not, as the other Schools, for some particular ward or district, we think the town might well furnish an instrument



here. We recommend that an appropriation be made for the purchase of a Pianoforte for the use of the pupils of the High School, with a view to foster the love and practice of music in the School, as improving to the taste, the minds, and hearts of the young.

## PUPILS ENTERED AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

Two pupils were honorably admitted at Harvard University,\* the past year, making the number now there six,—a larger number among the undergraduates of Harvard from this town, *in proportion to its population*, than from any city or town in the County, not excepting Cambridge, Charlestown, or Lowell. Boston has a population more than fifty times as large as this town, but instead of fifty times as many undergraduates at Cambridge, or three hundred, she has ninety-two. The population of Roxbury is more than seven times as large as this town, and she has twelve. Somerville, with a population more than twice as large as this town, has three. The teachers of the High School, for their continued faithfulness, are entitled to the confidence and gratitude of our people. And we trust this Institution will still receive, as in the past, the fostering care of the town, and diffuse more and more through the community

\* Students at present in Harvard University from this town are Bigelow, son of Samuel Bigelow, Duncklee, son of Joseph Duncklee, Rice, son of Edmund Rice, in the Senior class; Stevens, son of Silas Stevens, in the Sophomore class; Braman, son of Dr. Braman, Sinclair, son of Thomas Sinclair, in the Freshman class. James Madison Whittemore, Jr., son of Dr. Whittemore, also a pupil of this School, graduated with high rank at West Point last summer, and is now in service under his country's flag, on board the United States Sloop of War Brooklyn. Of the later students entered at College from this town, Henry Baldwin, son of Life Baldwin, of Yale College, 1854, has a law office in this town; George Brooks Bigelow, son of Samuel Bigelow, of Harvard University, 1856, has a law office in Boston; George F. Fuller, son of Granville Fuller, entered at Yale College in 1852, and subsequently of the Lawrence Scientific School, in Harvard University, has an office as Architect in Boston; Michael Norton, son of John Norton, of Harvard University, 1859, is a School Teacher at Philadelphia; William Wirt Warren, son of William Warren, of Harvard University, 1854, has a law office in Boston, and is Town Clerk here; George Willis Warren, son of George Washington Warren, of Harvard University, 1860, is travelling in Europe.



its good influences, in the characters and lives of well educated young men and women.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Town Hall, Washington Street. — Established Sept. 8, 1847.*

Principal, Mr. Solomon A. Poor, native of Gloucester.

Assistant, Miss Sarah E. Waugh, native of Brighton.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	115.	Boys, 59 ;	Girls, 56.
Belonging at the close,	113.	“ 58 ;	“ 55.
Present,	107.	“ 54 ;	“ 53.
Average attendance,	98.	“ 53 ;	“ 45.

Of this School, which is henceforth to bear another name, we present a favorable notice. It has been very large through the year. At the November Examination, 102 pupils belonged, and 95 were present, and at the last Examination, 113 belonged, and all but six were present through the day. The Principal, who began here September 28, 1847, and the Assistant, who began March 31, 1857, have been constant and faithful at their work, as usual, and have presented us with results very satisfactory. The two members of the Committee, present all day at the last Examination, conducted, themselves, exercises in arithmetic, grammar, history, and geography, and assigned lessons in reading, hearing all read. The method of spelling is well adapted to so large a School, and an exhibition of it was made in the afternoon, to the great satisfaction of a large number of friends present. Several of the older pupils have attended to book-keeping. Composition books and penmanship, and some specimens of map-drawing, were well. The order and discipline are excellent. The attendance was well reported on the Register. One of the girls, Susan Taylor, had not been once absent since she joined the School in October, 1859, sixteen months — thus enforcing on the tardy and remiss



a good lesson, and showing what may be accomplished by perseverance and a brave will, even against the changes and inclemencies of our climate. She does not live very near the School-house. One of the boys, who had been much addicted to the vice of truancy, has entirely reformed in that respect, and has been absent but a half day, and then excused, during the term, and was specially commended.

#### REMOVED TO THE BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL-HOUSE.

The School is removed, this day, March 4, to its new and elegant house on Winship Place, Agricultural Hill. Pupils, 163, are already arranged in their separate rooms, under the Principal, Mr. Poor, with two Assistants, Miss Waugh and Miss Sarah Emma Gilman, native of Newport, Maine, who, having had experience in the instruction and sole management of schools, embracing pupils of advanced ages, has been appointed to this situation, and enters this day upon her duties. The School is re-opened under the most favorable auspices. Of course for the year which this Report covers, it could not be known under its new name. But next year it will be reported, and will henceforth be known as the Bennett Grammar School,

#### WINSHIP PLACE, AGRICULTURAL HILL.

Some explanation seems required of the name given to the location of this School-House. In Worcester's Gazetteer of the United States, published in 1818, we find under the description of this town the following notice :—

“In 1816, the Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society commenced a Cattle Show and Exhibition of Domestic Manufactures, which is fixed at this place, and a commodious house, 70 feet by 36, has lately been erected for the accommodation of the Trustees, and the exhibition of cloths, implements of husbandry, &c.”

This high and spacious building, Agricultural Hall, erected as above, which many will remember as occupying a commanding position on the site of the Bennett Grammar School-House,



gave the name to this pleasant eminence. Here, in October, for several years, the famous Cattle Show and Agricultural Fair was held, pens being erected, each year, about the Hall, for the various animals which were on exhibition, and trials of skill at ploughing being had on grounds in different parts of the town. The Massachusetts Agricultural Society enrolled among its members some of the most eminent men in the Commonwealth ; and this town being the residence of Gorham Parsons, so widely known for his generous hospitality and for his princely estate, which shared every kind of tillage and produced such various and abundant crops and reared all kinds of animals, both "four-footed beasts of the earth, creeping things, and fowls of the air," attracted here great multitudes from the city, and even from remote parts of the State. The County Agricultural Societies had not then been formed. It was customary to have an Address at the First Church, with other services, and a public dinner of the Society on the day of the Show. The ladies usually held a Fair for the sale of fancy articles, useful and ornamental, in one part of the large edifice. The records of the Brighton Ladies' Association, a benevolent society in the First Parish, under date of October, 1834, say : "In consequence of there being no Cattle Show, the Ladies' Fair was omitted." When, in the establishment of County Societies, this State Agricultural ceased its annual gatherings, this great Hall was for a time unused. The grounds contiguous were purchased, at first, by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, of the Winship family, and, in the fall of 1844, were laid out in lots for sale. A plan of the lots, as then drawn, and finely engraved, is preserved. The name Winship Place was then given to the open space, a circular grass plot laid in the middle, and twelve lots laid out ; four of which were on the eastern line of the avenue which had led to Agricultural Hall. The public sale was on Wednesday, October 23, 1844. The two central lots, fronting the grass plot, were bought by Mr. Bennett, and constitute the lot he has given for the School-House. The lots were sold at various prices. The corner lot on Washington Street, on which now stands the store of Mr. Samuel Sanger, was bought by Mr. John Duncklee, on the highest



terms, at the rate of between seven and eight thousand dollars an acre, or  $16\frac{1}{2}$  cents a foot. The large Agricultural Hall was purchased by Mr. Cephas Brackett, moved down upon Washington Street, opposite head of Market Street, and is now the Eastern Market Hotel. As the lots were sold and deeds given bounding on Winship Place, it is important to retain the name; and let the name of Agricultural Hill be preserved as long as the name of Beacon Hill lasts.

## SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*North Harvard Street. — Established December, 1848.*

Principal, Mr. Guilford D. Bigelow, native of Harvard.  
Assistant, Miss Mary B. Monto, native of Boston.

### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	95.	Boys, 57 ;	Girls, 38.
Belonging at the close,	87.	“ 53 ;	“ 34.
Present,	80.	“ 47 ;	“ 33.
Average attendance,	75.	“ 45 ;	“ 30.

The members of the Committee, present the same at each of the examinations, were unanimous in the opinion that there had been a steady improvement in this school during the year. When last reported, the Principal had but lately assumed the charge of it, having begun on the 19th of December, 1859. We consider that he has been very successful. The assistant, who was taken as pupil from the School but a year and a half since, beginning here Sept. 8, 1859, has profited by the experience of the past; and, at the recent examination, her classes which came before us in the main room, spoke louder and were more accurate in their recitations than before. Number of pupils belonging at the last two examinations, 84 and 87; of whom were present 79 and 80. The order has been much commended. The average attendance has been good, 19 pupils not once absent in 2d term; 18 not once absent in last term, and 13 not once absent or tardy. These facts and figures, not conjectures, count on the right side as far as they go. There have been two, or three cases of truancy connected



with this building, which demand the most anxious vigilance of parents, and over which the care of teachers, Grammar and Primary, has hardly availed.

At the last Examination of this School we heard fourteen classes instructed by the Principal, and thirteen by the Assistant, in arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, reading and spelling. With a large company of visitors we spent the forenoon and afternoon agreeably, since teachers and pupils appeared to be mutually interested in their School; and we considered that the average attendance and the percentage of errors, might compare favorably with Grammar Schools situated like this, in the immediate suburbs of Boston. Music and singing have been uncommonly good, — as before reported, — Mr. Horace Bird, of Watertown, having formerly given instruction in the same; and the pupils, having for a year or two past hired a Pianoforte on which several of them are competent to perform, as a most agreeable accompaniment of their voices.

This School will hereafter be known as the Harvard Grammar School, as by Resolution on pages four and five.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 1.

*North Harvard Street. — Established 1845.*

Teacher, Miss Melissa A. Tuxbury, native of Saco, Me.  
Prudential Committee not appointed.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	72.	Boys, 41 ;	Girls, 31.
Belonging at the close,	66.	“ 37 ;	“ 29.
Present,	57.	“ 35 ;	“ 22.
Average attendance,	58.	“ 32 ;	“ 26.

This is not so forward a School as some of the Primaries. But in the judgment of the Committee, one present at the July, and two at the November and February Examinations, the Teacher has gained, each term, somewhat in order and in her



methods of instruction. She began here August 30, 1859. The opening devotional exercises have been discharged in a very becoming manner by these little children at our several visits ; and among the exercises in reading, spelling, arithmetic and geography, while the scholars, generally, have not advanced far in the text-books, some, who had attended regularly, answered very correctly. Failures here, as always, we found, went with irregular attendance. At the last Examination we called a few names of pupils not once absent in the term. The Teacher has been faithful, and solicitous for the improvement of her pupils, most of whom are quite young ; and she should be encouraged by their parents and friends.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. II.

*School Street. — The old North District School.*

Principal, Miss Mary Frances Child, native of Lincoln.  
 Assistant, Miss Emma Amanda Draper, native of Brighton.  
 Prudential Committee not appointed.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	85.	Boys, 46 ;	Girls, 39.
Belonging at the close,	85.	“ 46 ;	“ 39.
Present,	74.	“ 43 ;	“ 31.
Average attendance,	71.	“ 39 ;	“ 32.

Miss Child, who had taught, as we learned, successively, at Weston, Framingham, and elsewhere, was appointed Principal of this School, at the opening of the year, in place of Miss Beane, resigned. She began March 12, one week after the opening of the term. She possesses in a remarkable degree the essential gifts for a successful teacher. The good abilities and services of the Assistant, who began here September 14, 1858, have been before reported. We have seldom found more to commend in any Primary School than under these two teachers, during the past year. In order, accuracy of recitations, general proficiency, in good emphasis and articulation, in spelling, singing, and speaking of dialogues, and fair penmanship, the Committee were unanimous that the School excelled.



We should rather regret to see Primary School children more advanced in Colburn's Mental Arithmetic than were some here. Much attention has been paid to spelling both from the speller and from reading lessons ; and the good effects were most manifest, as we examined the pupils ourselves in this important branch. We attended the last Examination, in one of the heaviest rain storms of the season, and found seventy-four pupils present out of eighty-five, and thirty of their friends came with us.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. III.

*Oak Square. — The old West District School.*

Teacher, Miss Ellen Harris, native of Brighton.

Prudential Committee, Mr. William R. Champney.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	57.	Boys, 31 ;	Girls, 26.
Belonging at the close,	54.	“ 29 ;	“ 25.
Present,	46.	“ 25 ;	“ 21.
Average attendance,	48.	“ 27 ;	“ 21.

We have found better reading in this School, considering all the classes, than in any one of the Primaries. The teacher has a rare faculty for making good readers. But in arithmetic and geography, there has not been the same excellence. This deficiency, the teacher ascribed, in part, to the fact that the School had been more broken up, than usual, by absences. At the first Examination, exercises in spelling were reported remarkably correct ; at the last two Examinations, not so well. At the November Examination, on a bright, glorious morning several pupils came in, ten minutes late. This may not be uncommon in some places ; but in this town, such has been a rare sight, of late years, on Examination days. One charm of an Examination is to have the pupils seated, a little before the hour assigned for the exercises to begin, and not to be summoned by the bell from their play-ground, just as the hour is reached. Another charm is to have, if possible, no bringing in of chairs, nor arranging of the room, say within



fifteen minutes of the hour assigned. We fear the pupils are getting careless here, about absence and tardiness. Let parents look after this. The writing-books have appeared well. The order and stillness have been uniformly superior. The Primary School Exercise Song, as well as other singing, with occasional drawing at the blackboard should come in to prevent weariness in small children who move about so little as do the children here. We shall look to the teacher to impart to the pupils, next year, more of her own good scholarship, of which we had full proof, in former years, at our High School. She took charge of this School December 3, 1855.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. IV.

*Academy Hill. — Established 1845.*

Principals (successively), Miss Catharine Stearns, native of Lancaster, and Miss Isabella Frances Collins, native of Brighton. Assistant, Miss Mary Elizabeth Wellman, native of Brighton. Prudential Committee not appointed.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	97.	Boys, 48 ;	Girls, 49.
Belonging at the close,	92.	“ 44 ;	“ 48.
Present,	86.	“ 39 ;	“ 47.
Average attendance,	80.	“ 40 ;	“ 40.

Miss Stearns relinquished her charge here, December 10, on account of ill health, much to the regret of the Committee, and friends of the School. She has taught here, at two different periods since December 1847, eight years in all, and proved herself one of the most remarkably successful teachers, in all respects, we have ever employed in town. Her School numbered at the close of the first and second terms ninety and ninety-five pupils. At her last Examination, ninety-four were present out of ninety-five. There have been more advanced pupils here than in the other Primaries, — and several who solved readily the most difficult examples which we could assign them, at the close of Colburn's Mental Arithmetic. The penmanship has been remarkably good for such young writers.



Miss Collins who, in 1857, was employed as Assistant in this School, with the entire approval of the Committee, was appointed successor to Miss Stearns, and began on the 11th of December last. We have not looked yet, of course, for the same admirable results in discipline and instruction as from her long experienced predecessor ; but she had made a very good beginning of eleven weeks. She has devoted herself, understandingly, to her work, and is developing good abilities for a teacher. At the last Examination, we saw classes instructed by her and by Miss Wellman, who has assisted here very faithfully and devotedly since August 31, 1857 ; and we were much gratified by the accuracy of their recitations. The older scholars, most of whom must now be promoted to the Bennett Grammar School, interested us by their proficiency. Many friends of the children were present. The songs and dialogues interspersed between the recitations were pleasing to all.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. V.

*Shepard Street, removed to Union Street. — The Old Centre District School.*

Teacher, Miss Mary Jane Hall, native of Northboro.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. Wm. Livermore.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	67.	Boys, 34 ;	Girls, 33.
Belonging at the close,	65.	“ 32 ;	“ 33.
Present,	62.	“ 31 ;	“ 31.
Average attendance,	54.	“ 30 ;	“ 24.

A greater change is seldom wrought in a School than has been accomplished here by Miss Hall since she began, December 7, 1857. Out of chaos has come, in these three years and a quarter, most beautiful order. The Examinations of the past year, the first attended by one, and the second and third by two of the Committee, have been alike favorably reported by both. Under the appropriate head, notice is taken of the new and commodious building on Union Street, in which this School was opened Monday, December 24, gathering last in



the old house on the previous Saturday. Few pleasanter Primary School-Houses will be found than this. At the November Examination, 63 pupils were present out of 66; at the last, in a severe rain storm, 62 out of 65. The exercises in reading and spelling, in arithmetic and geography, were highly creditable. The singing and speaking and drawing were commended. The names of twenty-five pupils were read, who, for special good conduct, deserved notice; and also, the names of five boys and of nine girls who had not been once tardy during the past term.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL No. VI.

*Allston Street. — The Old <sup>East</sup> District School.*

Teacher, Mrs. Caroline E. D. Howe, native of Portland, Me.  
Prudential Committee, Mr. Jerome Billings.

#### *Last Examination.*

Pupils in the term,	49.	Boys, 28; Girls, 21.
Belonging at the close,	49.	" 28; " 21.
Present,	44.	" 26; " 18.
Average attendance,	45.	" 26; " 19.

At the first Examination, 54 were present out of 59; at the second, all were present, 49; at the last 44 out of 49. The order has been remarkably good. In reading and spelling, more errors were reported than in arithmetic and geography. Attention and deliberation are wanted here for the readers. In arithmetic, though the pupils are not much advanced, we found them generally correct; and some exercises in geography were unusually so. In penmanship, we have not found much to report. Singing is much practised, as it should be in all Primary Schools, and some very good specimens of drawing were shown. The Teacher's labors have been a little interrupted by temporary ill health, and she may not have accomplished quite as much as in previous years. She began here November 30, 1857;



and has thus been faithfully engaged in her work more than three years. The School-House has been improved the past year, repaired, and repainted, and furnished with a good ventilating apparatus, and is all-sufficient for present needs. It is the only building remaining of the old class, yet having the modern School chairs. Every other School-House in town has been built within six or seven years, of most approved style. Such commendable enterprise is not surpassed, if equalled, in many cities or towns of the State.

### SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the first day of May last by the Assessors according to law, was 654, — males 350, females 304. Some under five, and over fifteen, attend School. But these ages are assumed for convenience by the Massachusetts Board of Education, in their yearly calculations, and so certified to their Secretary annually by the School Committee of each town. The following table shows the number registered the last term in each School, and the number belonging and present in each at the closing Examination ; also, the average attendance for each term.

1860 – 61, — 654 children between five and fifteen.

	Registered.	Belonging.	Present.	AVERAGE.		
				1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.
H. S.	55	47	44	51	46	45
H. G. S.	115	113	107	70	75	98
S. G. S.	95	87	80	68	74	75
No. I.	72	66	57	61	58	58
“ II.	85	85	74	66	75	71
“ III.	57	54	46	45	46	48
“ IV.	97	92	86	83	86	80
“ V.	67	65	62	63	55	54
“ VI.	49	49	44	50	46	45
	<hr/> 692	<hr/> 658	<hr/> 600	<hr/> 557	<hr/> 561	<hr/> 574



## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

The Massachusetts Board of Education made choice of Hon. Joseph White, of Williamstown, as Secretary, in place of Hon. George S. Boutwell, whose resignation we announced in the last Report. Mr. White entered upon his duties in January last, — Mr. Boutwell having, as urgently solicited, remained in office to prepare the Annual Report presented to the Legislature in January. It contains a very valuable digest of the State School Laws, together with a sketch of the Educational and Reformatory Institutions of Massachusetts. This manual of the Statutes relating to Schools is exceedingly useful to all who would inform themselves on the subject. The usual abstract of the School Returns, made, each year, to the State Department by the School Committees of the several towns and cities, is likewise appended, and a copy of the Report is deposited with each School for the use of the citizens.

A Table is prepared by the Secretary, showing the average attendance on the Public Schools, of pupils in each of the 334 towns and cities of the State for the year 1859–60. The small town of Dunstable, in this County, shows the best average attendance in the State, and stands No. 1, in the Table. Brighton stands 75th. In 74 places, the attendance is better, in 259 places, it is not so good as here. Belmont stands 68th; Cambridge, 71st; and Medford, 74th. No other place near us stands as well as this. Brookline is 81st; Somerville, 90th; Dorchester, 93d; Charlestown, 98th; Waltham, 111th; Newton, 119th; Roxbury, 130th; Boston, 135th; West Cambridge, 177th; Watertown, 191st; Salem, 192d; Quincy, 195th; Concord, 220th; Taunton, 232d. Marshpee District stands lowest in the Table, where the average attendance was but little more than one half of the whole number of School children.

Your Committee are happy to report the average attendance as good as it is. They have endeavored, by frequently calling the attention of teachers and pupils to the subject, — by emulation, — by special notice of those who excel, — to increase



the attendance; and have not been wholly unsuccessful, as these returns prove. That sad vice of

## TRUANCY

is to be found here, as elsewhere; and while fewer cases, we believe, exist among us, than in most places, we would still urge the magnitude of this evil on parents and guardians of the young. What think you, Citizens, of such a statement in regard to young truant children, "The parents have no control over them!" How much, then, can Teachers or Committees do with them! Oh, awful impeachment! Parents no control over a truant boy of ten or twelve years of age! Did they have control over him when God laid him, in his innocence, in the mother's lap! And how and why has this control ceased! And will society bear that such a monster, because such a perversion of God's fair work shall roam her streets, infest her public places, imperil her property, and the virtue of her other children! Would society endure that some wild young Bengalee tigers should go at large because their keeper had no control over them! Of just this material, young truant children, over whom parents have no control, are our incendiaries, our thieves and burglars, made. Boston has, sometime since, declared that the alarming evil of truancy must be stayed; and has brought the strong arm of the civil law to bear on the offence, insisting that the children whom parents cannot control and keep at school, shall be disciplined and instructed in other ways. Somerville, Cambridge, Brookline, Roxbury, Newton, our neighbors, all of whom have suffered so much from this class of young pilferers, idlers, growing adepts in every vice and crime, are moving in the matter, and doing what they may as well to protect themselves as to save the poor children whom the parents cannot save. Fortunately with us the number of such is not large, and, perhaps, the more observed. But how may the few be reclaimed and saved? This question is from time to time brought to us with that mournful statement from teachers, sadder than any funeral dirge, "We fear the parents have no control over them."



## TOWN'S RANK AS TO ITS APPROPRIATION.

The towns and cities of the State are arranged by the Secretary of the Board of Education, in a Table showing the amount which the money, raised in each for Teachers' wages, fuel, and care of fires, would allow for each School child. The last estimate was for 1859-60. Among the 334 towns and cities, Brighton stood 17th. Her appropriation for wages, fuel, and care of fires (on which the Secretary's scale is now based), \$5,935.51, would give to each of her 673 children, \$8.81. Cambridge stood 18th,—to each child, \$8.73; Lexington, 23d, \$7.97; Concord, 28th, \$7.55; West Cambridge, 30th, \$7.44; Watertown, 36th, \$7.17; Waltham, 42d, \$6.68; Salem, 43d, \$6.63; Quincy, 53d, \$6.18; Natick, 95th, \$5.09; Taunton, 123d, \$4.77; Andover, 179th, \$4.17; and Marshpee District, lowest in the Table, \$1.42 to each child.

Brookline has retrieved her former standing, and is first in the Table. Her appropriation of \$14,575, would allow for each of her 727 School children, \$20.04. Belmont is 2d, her appropriation of \$3,000, for 173 children, \$17.34; Dorchester, 5th, \$12.17; Somerville, 6th, \$12.03; New Bedford, 7th, \$10.59; Boston, 8th, \$10.52; Newton, 10th, \$10.34; Roxbury, 13th, \$9.44; Charlestown, 14th, \$9.27; Lowell, 15th, \$9.087; Nantucket, 16th, \$9.081.



The following Table embraces items useful for reference and comparison.

Year.	Population.	No. of Public Schools.	School Children.	Appropriation for Wages and Fuel.	Rank in the State.
1837	1,337	4	337	1,000	
1838 - 39	"	4	338	1,200	
1839 - 40	"	4	323	1,200	
1840 - 41	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841 - 42	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842 - 43	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843 - 44	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844 - 45	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845 - 46	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846 - 47	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847 - 48	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848 - 49	"	9	496	2,700	11
1849 - 50	2,356	9	452	3,100	8
1850 - 51	"	9	402	3,500	3
1851 - 52	"	9	445	3,500	6
1852 - 53	"	9	455	3,500	11
1853 - 54	"	9	475	3,900	9
1854 - 55	"	9	500	3,900	10
1855 - 56	2,895	9	612	4,200	25
1856 - 57	"	9	587	4,800	15
1857 - 58	"	9	550	5,300	6
1858 - 59	"	9	533	5,500	6
1859 - 60	"	9	673	5,650	17
1860 - 61	3,376	9	654	6,000	
1861 - 62	"	9	*	6,200	

#### PAST APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE.

Expenditures for all School purposes are herewith returned by the Secretary of the Board for the past year.

Town appropriation for Teachers' Wages and Fuel,	\$ 6,000.00
Town's portion of State School Fund, for do.	137.97

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\$ 6,137.97

\* To be ascertained in May.



## Paid for Teachers' Wages : —

In High School, . . . . .	\$ 1,525.00	
In two Grammar Schools, . . . . .	2,057.00	
In six Primary Schools, . . . . .	1,873.17	
	<hr/>	\$ 5,455.17

## Paid for Fuel : —

*Primary No. I. (including Second Grammar School).\**

Coal, 10 tons, . . . . .	\$ 60.00	
Charcoal, 60 baskets, \$ 18. ; Shavings, 60 cts.	18.60	
	<hr/>	\$ 78.60

*Primary No. II.*

Coal, 6 tons, . . . . .	\$ 36.00	
Charcoal, 20 baskets, \$ 6. ; Shavings, \$1.	7.00	
	<hr/>	43.00

*Primary No. III.*

Coal, 2½ tons, . . . . .	\$ 15.00	
Charcoal, 20 baskets, . . . . .	6.00	
	<hr/>	21.00

*Primary No. IV. (including High School).*

Coal, 15 tons, 760 lbs., . . . . .	\$ 92.28	
Charcoal, 75 baskets, \$22.50 ; Shavings, 25 cts.	22.75	
	<hr/>	115.03

*Primary No. V.*

Coal, 3½ tons, . . . . .	\$ 21.00	
Charcoal, 15 baskets, \$ 4.50 ; Shavings, 50 cts.	5.00	
	<hr/>	26.00

*Primary No. VI.*

Coal, 2 tons, . . . . .	\$ 12.00	
Charcoal, 20 baskets, \$ 6. ; Shavings, 50 cts.	6.50	
	<hr/>	18.50

*Harvard Grammar School and Town Hall.*

Coal, 12½ tons, . . . . .	\$ 75.00	
Charcoal, 80 baskets, \$ 24. ; Shavings, 80 cts.	24.80	
	<hr/>	99.80

Total paid for fuel, . . . . .	\$ 401.93
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Paid for incidental School expenses, including repairs on School-Houses, fences and furnaces, care of fires and School-rooms, compensation to General and Prudential Committees, printing Report, books to destitute children, insurance, &c. . . . .	\$ 1,009.37
New School-House for Primary No. V., land, building, furnishing and fencing, . . . . .	4,633.08
New School-House for Bennett Grammar School, Teachers' Wages, . . . . .	7,635.92
Fuel, . . . . .	5,455.17
	401.93
Total for all School purposes,	\$ 19,135.47

The following table shows what amount has been expended since 1840 - 41 for wages and fuel, compensation to Committees, and since 1848 - 49, the total for all School purposes : —

Year.	Wages and Fuel.	Prudential Committee.	General Committee.	For all School Purposes.
1840 - 41	\$ 1,040.08	. .	\$ 79.00	
1841 - 42	1,954.83	. .	101.00	
1842 - 43	1,958.94	\$ 40	58.00	
1843 - 44	1,994.65	40	85.00	
1844 - 45	1,905.28	40	75.00	
1845 - 46	1,730.05	40	75.00	
1846 - 47	2,058.09	60	75.00	
1847 - 48	2,374.17	60	80.00	
1848 - 49	2,731.66	60	74.00	\$ 3,745.10
1849 - 50	3,176.89	60	92.50	3,731.49
1850 - 51	3,244.14	60	120.00	4,017.75
1851 - 52	3,517.63	60	90.00	4,083.79
1852 - 53	3,595.18	60	70.00	4,080.38
1853 - 54	3,978.16	60	80.00	13,349.03
1854 - 55	4,272.29	60	102.00	5,068.08
1855 - 56	4,259.93	60	146.08	10,265.25
1856 - 57	4,899.41	60	125.00	16,347.61
1857 - 58	5,520.90	60	141.00	6,527.15
1858 - 59	5,676.97	60	130.00	6,388.49
1859 - 60	5,847.91	40	150.00	7,123.58
1860 - 61	5,857.10	40	120.00	19,135.47



## CALENDAR.

### *School Terms, Vacations, and Examinations.*

The present School year extends from the last Monday of February, 1861, (25th day) to the last Monday of February, 1862 (24th day). It is divided into three School terms. During the last week of each term the Committee will visit and examine every School. There are eight weeks of vacation, and the following days are prescribed holidays: Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday, Fast-day, May-day, Independence-day, Commencement, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The School year begins with a vacation of one week. The first term begins on the first Monday of March (4th day), and extends to the 5th Monday of July (29th day), comprising twenty-one weeks. A vacation of five weeks follows. The second term begins on the first Monday of September (2d day), and extends to the fourth Monday of November (25th day), comprising twelve weeks. A vacation of one week follows. The third term begins on the first Monday of December (2d day), and extends to the last Monday of February, 1862 (24th day), comprising twelve weeks.

A recess of one week occurs in the long term, beginning on the fourth Monday of May (27th day), and extending to the first Monday of June (3d day). This recess makes up the eight weeks of vacation. It is not considered as ending a term. When the recess begins, the School Registers are not to be closed up, as they are before each vacation.

The quarter salaries of teachers are payable at the Treasurer's Office on the 4th day of June, September, December, 1861, and 22d day of February, 1862. The weekly compensation of Teachers is payable as above, at the close of each School term, — on the fourth Saturday of July (27th day), on the fourth Saturday of November (23d day), and on the fourth Saturday of February, 1862 (22d day).

## APPROPRIATION FOR WAGES AND FUEL.

The Committee recommend that the sum of six thousand, two hundred dollars (\$6,200) be raised and appropriated for Teachers' wages and fuel for the ensuing year.



Nor would they close their Report without expressing the regret which they felt in losing the services of one of their number, Rev. Mr. Ellis, who, by his removal from town, early in the School year, vacated the place on this Board to which he was chosen, in 1859, for three years. By a year's experience in the work, his counsels and co-operation had become very valuable.

Respectfully submitted in behalf of the Committee.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY.

FREDERIC A. WHITNEY,	} <i>Superintending</i>
JOHN RUGGLES.	
(one vacancy)	
	} <i>School Committee.</i>

Brighton, March 11, 1861.

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*Brighton, March 11, 1861.*

IN Town Meeting, the above Report was presented, accepted and passed to be printed.

Attest,                      WILLIAM WIRT WARREN, *Town Clerk.*

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At the same meeting (held, not as usual, on the first, but on the second Monday of March), \$6,200 was appropriated for wages and fuel. An appropriation was also made for the purchase of apparatus and a Pianoforte for the High School as recommended.

Mr. Ruggles, on account of official engagements, resigned his place on the Committee to which he had been appointed, in 1860, for three years. Mr. Whitney's term of office expired by limitation. It thus became necessary to elect a Board, anew, which was constituted as follows : —

FREDERIC AUGUSTUS WHITNEY, three years,  
 RICHARD GLEASON GREENE, two years,  
 CHARLES NOYES, one year.



## PUBLIC LECTURES.

Lectures have been given the past winter, as usual, at Union Hall, on Union Square, as follows : —

November 17, by Hon. Charles Sumner of Boston, on “ The Life, Character, and Public Services of General Lafayette ; ” by Hon. Edward G. Parker of Boston, on “ John Hancock ; ” by Rev. William Rounsville Alger of Boston, on “ The Origin and Uses of Poetry ; ” by Carl Schurz of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on “ American Civilization ; ” by Rev. Henry Giles of Quincy, on “ The Irish Character ; ” by Rev. Sumner Ellis of Lynn, on “ Peter the Hermit and the Crusaders ; ” by Rev. Richard Gleason Greene of Brighton, on “ Discussion ; ” by Rev. Samuel Mc’Elwaine Stimson of Brighton, on “ The Pulpit, — the true Reformer ; ” by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher of Brooklyn, N. Y., on “ The Commonwealth ; ” by Rev. Edward Hubbell Chapin of New York, on “ Man and his Works.”



TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

1861-62.

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TWENTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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CAMBRIDGE:

PRINTED AT THE CHRONICLE OFFICE.

1862.







TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

1861-62.

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1862.







# R E P O R T.

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THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE for the year 1861-62, is herewith respectfully submitted to the Citizens of BRIGHTON.

## I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the threshold of the Report, the change in the Membership of this Committee demands our attention.

REV. FREDERIC AUGUSTUS WHITNEY, whose connection with the School System of this Town had extended through many years, and had been characterized throughout by the most tireless and faithful labors in both an official and individual capacity, resigned his membership in the Committee at the end of the First Term of the School Year. Few men in the Commonwealth have given so long and laborious a service to the cause of education in the town of their abode; certainly none can have served that cause with more conscientious and affectionate zeal. Mr. Whitney's service is as historical as the School System of the Town, which indeed would have little remaining if the portions resulting from his care and effort were to be subtracted. The work which he has done shall be his kind memorial in the schools, the homes, the hearts of the Town, in all the future years. The other members of the Committee yielded, rather than consented, to this resignation of their Chairman, after vainly seeking to change his purpose; and indeed it was not to be denied, that so long a term of labor gave him a claim for exemption and for rest.

Upon Mr. Whitney's resignation, a convention of the two



Boards of Selectmen and School Committee proceeded, according to the State Law (Gen. Stat., Title XI., Chap. 38, Sect. 17) to an election to fill the vacancy. MR. JOHN PERKINS CUSHING WINSHIP having received the legal majority of votes for that office, entered immediately upon his duties, receiving from the other members of the Committee a hearty welcome.

## II. SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The Town has seven School-houses, all modern in construction and furniture, except that occupied by Primary School VI. This building is not *violently* inconvenient. The Committee would be glad if the Town in *its* wisdom saw fit to provide superior accommodations for the school in this important and thriving District ; but they do not feel authorized to recommend, at present, the erection of a new edifice, since it is hardly possible to pronounce what kind of accommodations may soon be needed ; but they deem it well to remark, that probably no long time can elapse before the present building will need to be replaced with one larger and offering the improved accommodations with which all the other Districts have now been provided, through the praise-worthy liberality of the Town.

## III. TEACHERS.

Fifteen Teachers,—nine Principals, six Assistants,—are now in the employ of the Town. These are the same as at the date of the last Report, except that in Primary School V., at the commencement of the last Term, the present Teacher took the place of Miss Mary J. Hall ; and in Primary School VI., at the close of the last Term, the present Teacher took the place of Mrs. Caroline E. D. Howe, resigned.

The Middlesex County Teachers' Association held its sixteenth semi-annual meeting in this town, in the month of April. The attendance was large ; the exercises spirited ; and the interest gratifying. There can be no doubt that this meeting exerted influences most beneficial upon the Teachers and the families of the Town that gave it so ready a welcome.



## IV. SCHOOLS.

There are in the Town nine Public Schools, of which, one, the Bennett Grammar, is in three Departments. The State Board of Education consider as a distinct school each Department in which a separate Register is kept. Thus, this Town will appear on the books of that Board with eleven schools.

The nine schools are arranged in the three following grades : —

### I. THE HIGH SCHOOL.

### II. THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS, — The Bennett Grammar School. The Harvard Grammar School.

### III. THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, — I., II., III., IV., V., VI.

## V. PUPILS.

The number of children in Town between the ages of five and fifteen years, as ascertained by the Assessors, May 1st, 1861, according to law, was 719: — males, 387; females, 332.

Various interesting and valuable particulars of the number of these children attending the different schools in the several Terms, are recorded in the Report on the State of the Schools, under each school separately; and in statistical table (B) in the Appendix. It is hoped that these figures will receive the careful attention of teachers and parents. Each figure represents a youthful soul engaged in learning how to live wisely and well. It is not wise to overlook anything that can shed light upon a work so momentous.

The Committee call attention to the following facts as revealed by these statistics : —

1. While the whole number of children in the Town between five and fifteen years of age was 719, the number registered in all the schools during the Spring and Summer Term was 855.



This is explained by the fact that some scholars under, and some over, the age specified, attended the schools; and, by the fact that in some cases the pupils were transferred from one school to another at such times that their names appear on both registers.

2. The improved attendance during the last two terms is noticeable as the result of more stringent rules adopted by the Committee. During the Spring Term the average attendance, as also the number present at Examination was nearly 100 less than the number *belonging at the close*; but during the next term the number present at Examination was only 60 less, and the average attendance only 75 less, than the number belonging at the close. During the first term the average attendance was 274 less than the number registered; but during the next term it was only 129 less. The High School especially showed this beneficial change, raising its average attendance from 47 out of 70 the first term, to 44 out of 52 the second, and 42 out of 49 the third.

3. The general per centage of attendance in all the schools was 76. The lowest was in the Bennett Grammar, 3d Dept., 63 per cent. The highest average attendance was in Primary VI., 83 per cent. The Committee desire to speak with praise of a District in which the parents so highly value the privilege of education for their children as to secure their regular attendance at the exercises of the schools.



## VI. STATE OF THE SCHOOLS.

[*Note.* In the figures of “average attendance” throughout this Report, the fractions are omitted. This accounts for occasional slight discrepancies in the totals.]

## (I.) THE HIGH SCHOOL.

## ACADEMY-HILL.

*Established, 1841, May.*

Principal, Mr. Lucius H. Buckingham, native of Boston.

Began 1859, May 2.

Assistant, Miss Anna J. George, native of Plymouth, N. H.

Began 1857, March 31.

*Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	70.	Boys, 30 ;	Girls, 40.
Belonging at close,	59.	“ 25 ;	“ 34.
Present at examination,	40.	“ 14 ;	“ 26.
Average attendance,	47.	“ 21 ;	“ 25.

*Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	52.	Boys, 23 ;	Girls, 29.
Belonging at close,	48.	“ 20 ;	“ 28.
Present at examination,	48.	“ 20 ;	“ 28.
Average attendance,	44.	“ 19 ;	“ 25.

*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	49.	Boys, 21 ;	Girls, 28.
Belonging at close,	46.	“ 19 ;	“ 27.
Present at examination,	45.	“ 19 ;	“ 26.
Average attendance,	42.	“ 18 ;	“ 24.
Average for the year,	45.	“ 19 ;	“ 25.



*Studies of the Year.*

Reading,	Physical Geography,
Spelling,	General History,
Penmanship,	Book-Keeping,
English Composition,	English Grammar and
Arithmetic,	Analysis,
Algebra,	French,
Geometry,	Latin,
Natural History,	Greek,
Natural Philosophy,	Music.

*Remarks.*

The improvement in this school during the last two terms of this year, has been most decided. The attendance has become more regular; an enthusiasm in study has been developed; and, most important of all, because in great degree the source of every other improvement, a relation of mutual helpfulness and affection has been established between the Principal and his Pupils.

The Assistant has labored with that faithfulness and kindness which her pupils and all who are brought in contact with her, early come to recognize as inseparable from her nature, and as characterizing her performance of every duty. The skilfulness of her instructions combined with the elevation of her moral influence, make her in the great work which this school has to do, an Assistant indeed.

The Committee are impressed with the excellence of the modes of teaching pursued in this school. The close analysis which the Principal brings to bear on the various topics that come before his classes — the grasp and comprehensiveness with which those topics are handled, frequently, as in regard to *History*, by means of a system independent of any printed page, and made *living* in its impression upon the scholar — these, together with the evident social improvements above noted, have convinced the Committee of the value of those opportunities,



which, under its present management, are open in this institution to the graduates of our Grammar Schools.

Among the many hopeful signs which the last examination supplied, not the least important was the re-awakened interest of the public, as shown by the crowded attendance in the after part of the day, when the exercises were of the nature partly of an examination, and partly of an exhibition. Hundreds of parents and other friends of the pupils testified their interest by their presence. Scores of them, unable to find seats, remained standing till the session closed. The room itself, with its purified walls adorned with pictures, the graceful gift of the Principal, and with its new piano-forte and philosophical apparatus, gave every visitor an index of improvement. The practice of Declamation has been resumed, not again to be suspended: more attention has been given to Reading, Spelling, and English Composition: Natural Philosophy has been studied with the help of apparatus procured with funds appropriated by the Town a year ago, of which funds nearly two-thirds remain for further purchases as the advancement of the class shall call for them: Music has had two efficient helpers, a good teacher with a lesson weekly, and a good piano-forte: French and Latin have been pursued with great success as regards the *quality* of the results secured, though the smallness of the number who avail themselves of the opportunities offered in these studies, forms some hindrance to our congratulations.

But while all this praise is accorded freely and most truthfully, the Committee feel that great improvement may and must yet be secured in this High School. It is not to be denied that there are pupils in this School whose qualifications when they entered did not fit them for any higher grade than the Grammar Schools. Their presence has operated as a detriment to their classes, and a clog to their Teachers. The Committee feeling that the Town, which pays liberally for a High School, has therein a claim for a High School indeed, and not merely for a Grammar School labelled "High," embracing some High School studies,—have felt compelled to institute a system of study in all the schools, by which each grade would be kept distinct from the others in fact as in



name; and, to make the requirements for admission to the High School such as should defend it from the invasion of a mob of unprepared scholars. Their view of the case is simply this: — If a scholar is not *fitted* for the High School, his admission is no benefit either to it or to him. To admit him may flatter parental pride, or tickle a pardonable childish vanity; but the Town supports its liberal school system for other ends than these,—ends which are directly hindered by the advancement of a scholar to a grade for which he is not prepared. The standard of promotions should in no case be convenience of locality, or kindness to individual applicants; for, as regards the general success of the schools, and the lasting welfare of the scholars, such a standard must prove itself in the end both inconvenient and unkind.

The Committee have seen with regret the ignorance in spelling which has characterized the majority of applicants for membership in the High School. This important branch should have such thorough attention in the Grammar Schools as to require only an occasional review in the High School course, which Higher Course would thus secure more time for the studies properly belonging to it. To deal with the case as it now stands, however, the Committee advise that, during the coming year in the High School, special and increased attention be given to Spelling. Special cultivation will be needful also in Reading, English Composition, and Declamation. The importance of these studies in the diversified and active life, amid whose tides this generation must launch forth, can scarcely be over-rated.

We would echo the admirable sentiments of the last year's Report in urging on parents and scholars the desirableness, for as many of the pupils as practicable, of pursuing the *full Course* in the High School. They who hastily withdraw from the privileges of education open to them, know not into what battle of life they may be rushing forth unarmed. Each added year of study now may heighten and enrich indefinitely the life and all its work.



## (II.) THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

## I. THE BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

WINSHIP PLACE, AGRICULTURAL HILL.

*Formerly, The Harvard Grammar School. Established, 1847,  
Sept. 8.*

Principal, and Teacher 1st Department, Mr. Solomon A. Poor,  
native of Gloucester: Began, 1847, Sept. 28.

Assistant, and Teacher 2d Department, Miss Sarah E. Waugh,  
native of Brighton: Began, 1857, March 31.

Assistant, and Teacher 3d Department, Miss Sarah E. Gilman,  
native of Newport, Me.: Began, 1861, March 4.

*Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	185.	Boys, 108 ; Girls, 77.
Belonging at close,	145.	" 84 ; " 61.
Present at examination,	109.	" 55 ; " 54.
Average attendance,	124.	" 70 ; " 54.

*Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	148.	Boys, 85 ; Girls, 63.
Belonging at close,	143.	" 82 ; " 61.
Present at examination,	115.	" 63 ; " 52.
Average attendance,	113.	" 63 ; " 50.

*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	146.	Boys, 86 ; Girls, 60.
Belonging at close,	143.	" 83 ; " 60.
Present at examination,	122.	" 65 ; " 57.
Average attendance,	117.	" 64 ; " 52.
Average for the year,	118.	" 65 ; " 52.

This School, by far the largest in the Town, has prospered through the year in its new building, under the charge of its faithful and judicious Principal. The Principal is himself the Teacher of the 1st Department, while he has general super-



vision over the 2d and 3d Departments, in each of which an excellent Assistant presides. In the discipline of the entire School the Committee see everything to commend. The materials are not in all cases the most easily manageable; but the prudence and kindness of the Assistants, re-enforced by the Principal, who certainly has what may be called a happy faculty of discipline, secure a gratifying degree of order.

The state of the Departments, severally, is represented below.

1ST DEPARTMENT. — MR. SOLOMON A. POOR, TEACHER.

*Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	61.	Boys, 35 ;	Girls, 26.
Belonging at close,	49.	" 27 ;	" 22.
Present at examination,	38.	" 18 ;	" 20.
Average attendance,	44.	" 25 ;	" 19.

*Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	50.	Boys, 28 ;	Girls, 22.
Belonging at close,	50.	" 28 ;	" 22.
Present at examination,	40.	" 21 ;	" 19.
Average attendance,	40.	" 21 ;	" 19.

*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	50.	Boys, 29 ;	Girls, 21.
Belonging at close,	49.	" 28 ;	" 21.
Present at examination,	42.	" 23 ;	" 19.
Average attendance,	40.	" 22 ;	" 18.
Average for the year,	41.	" 22 ;	" 18.

This Department appeared well at the Examinations; and it was evident that during the last Term in particular, the Principal had been laboring with even more than his usual faithfulness and efficiency. Better recitations could not have been made than were presented in Geography; and this high praise would be but little too high in regard to several other branches. The only decided exception was in Spelling, which did not reach the proper standard of a Grammar School. The Committee incline to attribute this mainly to some lack dur-



ing past years in some of the Primary Schools, in some of which even now they notice Arithmetic unduly advanced, and Spelling consequently robbed of the time and effort which it should receive. They take the liberty of suggesting whether the old-fashioned *viva voce* mode of spelling is not better for scholars of the grade which this School contains, than the newly devised modes by writing so prevalent of late. The Committee feel that a good Teacher should not be interfered with; they repose confidence in the Principal's judgment; but they deem it well to suggest that in Spelling, even more than in all other learning, there is no "royal road"; there can be no patent process that shall do away with the scholar's direct memorizing and hard work, and frequent recitation of numerous examples. The old-fashioned mode seems simplest, and most direct, and it allows the *recitation of far more words in a given time*. The method by writing has its uses, and might be occasionally employed as an adjunct—perhaps once a week. The Committee recommend that in some way which shall meet the Principal's judgment, for which they have great respect, Spelling shall receive a largely increased attention in this Department during the year to come. With this one exception, they accord great praise for the results secured during the past year.

2D DEPARTMENT.—MISS SARAH E. WAUGH, TEACHER.

*Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	59.	Boys, 30 ;	Girls, 29.
Belonging at close,	48.	" 24 ;	" 24.
Present at examination,	39.	" 19 ;	" 20.
Average attendance,	41.	" 20 ;	" 20.

*Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	48.	Boys, 25 ;	Girls, 23.
Belonging at close,	47.	" 24 ;	" 23.
Present at examination,	43.	" 22 ;	" 21.
Average attendance,	41.	" 21 ;	" 19.



*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	46.	Boys, 23 ;	Girls, 23.
Belonging at close,	46.	" 23 ;	" 23.
Present at examination,	43.	" 21 ;	" 22.
Average attendance,	39.	" 19 ;	" 19.
Average for the year,	40.	" 20 ;	" 19.

After the five years of faithful and devoted service rendered by the Assistant in this Department, it is almost superfluous to report her school farther than to say that it has had a year of most successful study, and goes forth upon the year to come with every indication of promise. At each examination the proficiency displayed has been most commendable. The exceedingly well-kept Register of Recitations during the last term is one sign of the Teacher's faithfulness with every scholar under her care.

## 3D DEPARTMENT. — MISS SARAH E. GILMAN, TEACHER.

*Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	65.	Boys, 43 ;	Girls, 22.
Belonging at close,	48.	" 33 ;	" 15.
Present at examination,	32.	" 18 ;	" 14.
Average attendance,	36.	" 24 ;	" 12.

*Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	50.	Boys, 32 ;	Girls, 18.
Belonging at close,	46.	" 30 ;	" 16.
Present at examination,	32.	" 20 ;	" 12.
Average attendance,	31.	" 20 ;	" 11.

*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	50.	Boys, 34 ;	Girls, 16.
Belonging at close,	48.	" 32 ;	" 16.
Present at examination,	37.	" 21 ;	" 16.
Average attendance,	38.	" 23 ;	" 15.
Average for the year,	35.	" 22 ;	" 12.



This Department, newly constituted at the beginning of the year, has labored under disadvantages which have severely tested the skill and patience of its truly skilful and patient Teacher. That this Assistant has accomplished so much is occasion for congratulation, and evidences her fitness for her work. The materials with which she has had to deal are heterogeneous, not open to a thorough classification, and not in all cases fully prepared for their place in this Grammar School, nor in *all* cases accustomed to the best restraint when away from the Teacher's care. In the lowest class, the attendance, or the lack of it as reported, is such as to seriously interfere with the labors of the most faithful Teacher. The two upper classes have succeeded beyond expectation. The Committee would commend what has been done, and would heartily encourage the Teacher as to the future.

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## II. THE HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

NORTH HARVARD STREET.

*Formerly, The Second Grammar School.*

*Established, 1848, Dec.*

Principal, Mr. Guilford D. Bigelow, native of Harvard: Began, 1859, Dec. 19.

Assistant, Miss Mary B. Monto, native of Boston: Began, 1859, Sept. 8.

### *Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	104.	Boys, 64 ;	Girls, 40.
Belonging at close,	65.	" 43 ;	" 22.
Present at examination,	55.	" 34 ;	" 21.
Average attendance,	63.	" 41 ;	" 22.



*Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	84.	Boys, 58 ;	Girls, 26.
Belonging at close,	74.	" 52 ;	" 22.
Present at examination,	72.	" 52 ;	" 20.
Average attendance,	70.	" 48 ;	" 22.

*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	77.	Boys, 55 ;	Girls, 22.
Belonging at close,	72.	" 52 ;	" 20.
Present at examination,	71.	" 51 ;	" 20.
Average attendance,	70.	" 50 ;	" 20.
Average for the year,	67.	" 46 ;	" 21.

In this School there has been a steady improvement through the year. Especially is this true of the last term. The Committee hope that by this time a sufficiently pleasant relation has become established between the Principal and his scholars, to warrant him in relaxing somewhat the rigor with which he may have found it needful at first to conduct the discipline of the School. They have been happy of late to see and to hear evidences that a relation of confidence is rapidly growing up between the Principal and his pupils. They trust that this may increase more and more. They see abundant reason to commend the Principal to the parents and others interested in the School, as a teacher of unusual fitness, efficiency and skill. They deem his pupils fortunate in having a teacher at once so scientific and so diligent.

The classes under the charge of the Assistant appeared much more favorably at the last examination than at the second. A similar improvement during the next term will secure results commendable and encouraging.

The classes in spelling under the charge of the Principal have progressed admirably during the last term ; and the Committee rejoice to be now free in *one* school from all necessity of complaint regarding this much-neglected study. They do not here



undertake to say to how many, if to any, other schools this remark applies. They are glad to apply it here. The Map-drawing is excellent. The Reading, especially of the first class, is praiseworthy. Oral exercises, especially in Arithmetic, are admirably conducted. At the last examination a large attendance of visitors testified to the public interest.

It is the clear duty of parents whose children are members of this School to give its Principal their cordial co-operation and support in his arduous and important work.

### (III.) THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

#### · PRIMARY SCHOOL, I.

NORTH HARVARD STREET.

*Established, 1845.*

Teacher, Miss Melissa A. Tuxbury, native of Saco, Me.: Began, 1859, Aug. 30.

#### *Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	92.	Boys, 46 ;	Girls, 46.
Belonging at close,	60.	" 29 ;	" 31.
Present at examination,	55.	" 28 ;	" 27.
Average attendance,	54.	" 26 ;	" 28.

#### *Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	72.	Boys, 34 ;	Girls, 38.
Belonging at close,	69.	" 31 ;	" 38.
Present at examination,	58.	" 27 ;	" 31.
Average attendance,	61.	" 29 ;	" 32.



*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	66.	Boys, 33 ;	Girls, 33.
Belonging at close,	59.	" 31 ;	" 28.
Present at examination,	53.	" 30 ;	" 23.
Average attendance,	50.	" 26 ;	" 23.
Average for the year,	55.	" 27 ;	" 27.

This School is in a good condition, and has made great advance during the year. In one of the studies the success has not been so great as is desirable. That branch, will without doubt be cared for during the year to come ; and as regards the other branches, the Committee report a highly commendable advancement, especially in view of the serious loss endured by the School early in the year, in the removal of its two upper classes to the Grammar School. The Teacher is faithful and diligent.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL, II.

## SCHOOL STREET.

*Formerly, the North District School.*

Principal, Miss Mary F. Child, native of Lincoln : Began, 1860, March 12.

Assistant, Miss Emma A. Draper, native of Brighton : Began, 1858, Sept. 14.

*Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	92.	Boys, 44 ;	Girls, 48.
Belonging at close,	76.	" 39 ;	" 37.
Present at examination,	77.	" 38 ;	" 39.
Average attendance,	63.	" 31 ;	" 32.

*Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	77.	Boys, 39 ;	Girls, 38.
Belonging at close,	75.	" 38 ;	" 37.
Present at examination,	71.	" 37 ;	" 34.
Average attendance,	69.	" 35 ;	" 34.



*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	90.	Boys, 45 ;	Girls, 45.
Belonging at close,	87.	" 43 ;	" 44.
Present at examination,	80.	" 40 ;	" 40.
Average attendance,	74.	" 39 ;	" 35.
Average for the year,	68.	" 34 ;	" 33.

The Committee will not assert directly that this is the best Primary School in the Town, but they can freely say that it is now *one* of our pattern schools for its grade. They know, moreover, that the teachers will be earnest in all efforts to give it a still higher standing during the year to come.

The Committee have nothing but praise for this School, with its faithful and earnest teachers.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL, III.

## OAK SQUARE.

*Formerly, the West District School.*

Teacher, Miss Ellen Harris, native of Brighton: Began, 1855, Dec. 3.

*Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	65.	Boys, 34 ;	Girls, 31.
Belonging at close,	55.	" 28 ;	" 27.
Present at examination,	50.	" 25 ;	" 25.
Average attendance,	46.	" 26 ;	" 20.

*Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	53.	Boys, 27 ;	Girls, 26.
Belonging at close,	44.	" 24 ;	" 20.
Present at examination,	40.	" 21 ;	" 19.
Average attendance,	40.	" 23 ;	" 17.



*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	47.	Boys, 27 ;	Girls, 20.
Belonging at close,	44.	" 24 ;	" 20.
Present at examination,	41.	" 23 ;	" 18.
Average attendance,	36.	" 20 ;	" 16.
Average for the year,	40.	" 23 ;	" 17.

This School, characterized in the last Report as having succeeded in a different degree in various studies, retained the same characteristics through the first portion of the year. The last Term has witnessed a more even success ; the classes appeared well in all their studies ; and there is now every reason for encouragement regarding the future.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL, IV.

## ACADEMY HILL.

*Established, 1845.*

Principal, Miss Isabella F. Collins, native of Brighton : Began, 1860, Dec. 11.

Assistant, Miss Mary E. Wellman, native of Brighton : Began, 1857, Aug. 31.

*Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	98.	Boys, 46 ;	Girls, 52.
Belonging at close,	93.	" 43 ;	" 50.
Present at examination,	90.	" 42 ;	" 48.
Average attendance,	73.	" 34 ;	" 39.



*Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	96.	Boys, 45 ;	Girls, 51.
Belonging at close,	94.	" 44 ;	" 50.
Present at examination,	85.	" 41 ;	" 44.
Average attendance,	83.	" 38 ;	" 45.

*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	100.	Boys, 49 ;	Girls, 51.
Belonging at close,	96.	" 49 ;	" 47.
Present at examination,	80.	" 40 ;	" 40.
Average attendance,	74.	" 38 ;	" 36.
Average for the year,	76.	" 36 ;	" 40.

The Principal of this large School, new in her office at the date of the last Report, has since abundantly proved her fitness for the place. She has now brought the School, which during the first term was disorderly, to an admirable order ; has gained the affection of her pupils, and the confidence of their parents ; and, in connection with the faithful labors of her Assistant, whose care and devotedness are so well known, has conducted with pleasing success the various branches of study. The Committee heartily rejoice at what has been accomplished in this School.

Two classes have recently, at the close of the year, been promoted to the Grammar Schools ; and they have gone with so good a preparation as already occasions them to be reported with praise by their new Teachers, who find that they have brought with them that excellence as scholars, which is the sure sign of excellence in the instructor.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL, V.

UNION STREET.

*Formerly, The Centre District School.*

Teachers (successively), Miss Mary J. Hall, native of Northborough : Began, 1857, Dec. 7.

Miss Mary E. Kingsley, native of Brighton : Began, 1861, Dec. 2.

*Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	84.	Boys, 43 ;	Girls, 41.
Belonging at close,	68.	" 31 ;	" 37.
Present at examination,	55.	" 28 ;	" 27.
Average attendance,	58.	" 30 ;	" 28.

*Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	80.	Boys, 38 ;	Girls, 42.
Belonging at close,	65.	" 36 ;	" 29.
Present at examination,	65.	" 36 ;	" 29.
Average attendance,	63.	" 31 ;	" 32.

*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	69.	Boys, 34 ;	Girls, 35.
Belonging at close,	62.	" 33 ;	" 29.
Present at examination,	60.	" 31 ;	" 29.
Average attendance,	53.	" 28 ;	" 24.
Average for the year,	58.	" 29 ;	" 28.

This School has undergone a change of Teachers during the year. Owing to lack of health, and to other causes, the services of the former Teacher had not been fully available during the autumn term, and the School lost ground somewhat.

When the present Teacher entered on her duties, this lost ground was to be regained by her efforts, and she was also



Primary School  
No 5.

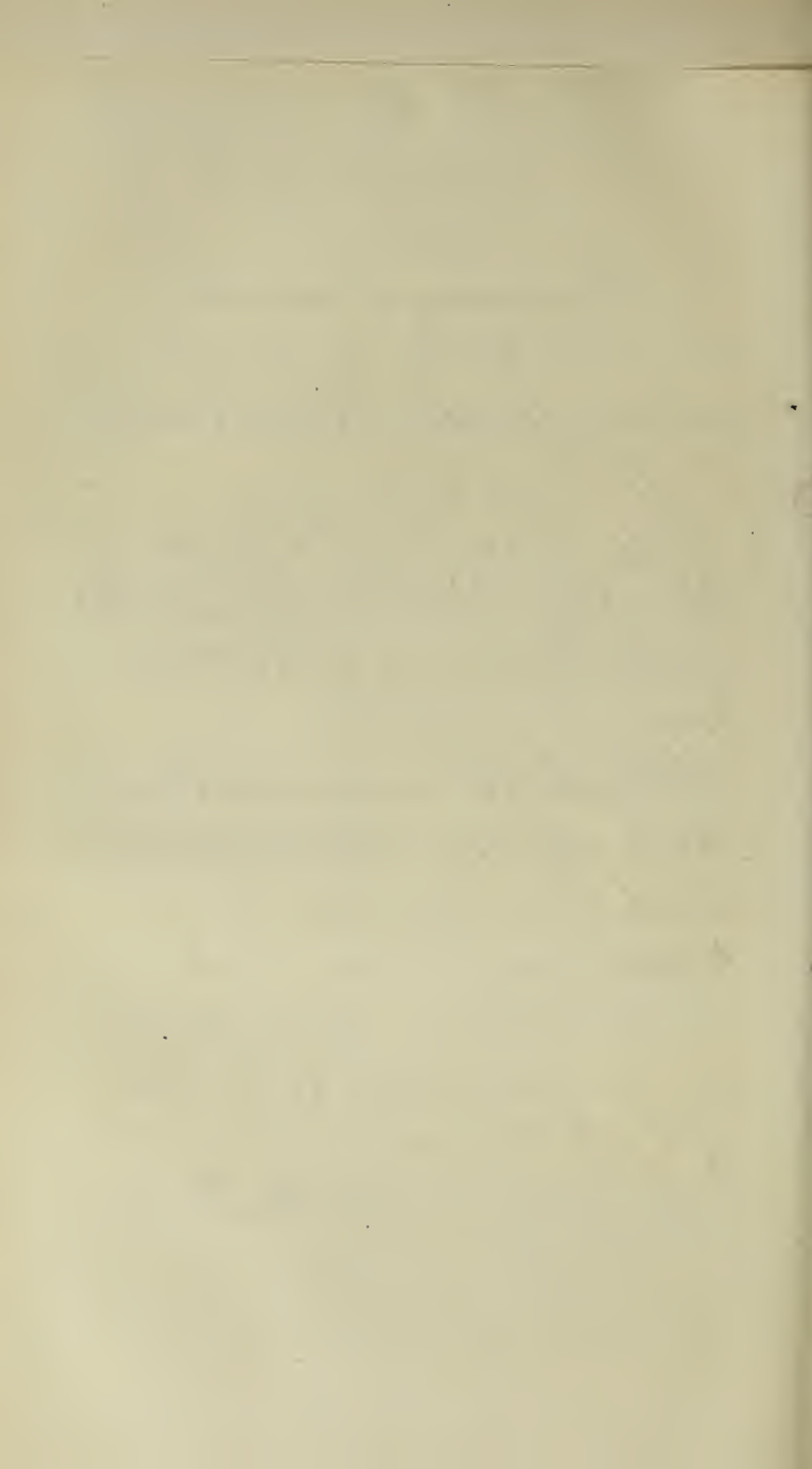
Miss Hall closed with  
Fall Term 1861.

Miss Kingsley began  
Monday, November 25, 1861,  
on the opening of the winter  
Term.

Thanksgiving was one  
week earlier than usual,  
and thus the Examinations  
came one week  
earlier than was stated  
in the printed Calendar  
of last Report.

G. A. W.







compelled to meet the obstacles which always attend a new and youthful Teacher. Moreover, the school has been too large for one Instructor, though not large enough to warrant the employment of an Assistant. Still, even against these obstacles, the School has prospered. The new Teacher has secured excellent order, and is in rapid process of securing successful study. The Committee found her classes well prepared for the Examination, and they feel warranted in affording her the most decided encouragement.

Death has made sad havoc with this school during the year. Three little chairs are vacant: three little hearts have passed, we trust, to a school above, whose ministries are angelic, whose learning is divine.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL, VI.

ALLSTON STREET.

*Formerly, The East District School.*

Teachers (successively), Mrs. Caroline E. D. Howe, native of Portland, Me.: Began, 1857, Nov. 30.

Miss Sallie W. Dudley, native of Brighton: Began, 1862, March 3.

### *Spring and Summer Term.*

Pupils registered,	65.	Boys, 35 ;	Girls, 30.
Belonging at close,	60.	" 33 ;	" 27.
Present at examination,	52.	" 27 ;	" 25.
Average attendance,	54.	" 30 ;	" 24.

### *Autumn Term.*

Pupils registered,	62.	Boys, 36 ;	Girls, 26.
Belonging at close,	58.	" 35 ;	" 23.
Present at examination,	56.	" 35 ;	" 21.
Average attendance,	52.	" 32 ;	" 20.



*Winter Term.*

Pupils registered,	57.	Boys, 34 ;	Girls, 23.
Belonging at close,	55.	" 33 ;	" 22.
Present at examination,	50.	" 31 ;	" 19.
Average attendance,	48.	" 29 ;	" 19.
Average for the year,	51.	" 30 ;	" 21.

This School, like the last mentioned, and one or two others, has been invaded by death. Early in the year, three little ones were suddenly removed, within a few days of each other, by a malignant disease. The apprehension of parents naturally became excessive, especially as the disease threatened to extend. Many scholars were, and doubtless wisely, withdrawn for a time from the School. Thus the studies were seriously interrupted. Considering these facts, it will appear that the School has made good progress during the year. The order has been good ; and the Committee are able to praise the attainments made in all the studies, except Spelling. This at the end of the Autumn Term made an appearance unusually poor, which the Committee were disposed to attribute mainly to the interference by sickness mentioned above. This supposition gathers force from the fact that an improvement appeared at the last Examination, giving evidence that the Teacher had labored with added diligence to improve that branch of study. Other studies also appeared well at the last Examination ; but the Committee saw then occasion to remark that the balance of studies had not been fully preserved. A large class in Arithmetic had gone beyond the limits assigned by the Rules for the Primary Schools, and was engaged upon the Grammar School Course. In this particular study that class showed fair progress ; but the undesirableness of such a violation of Rules was evident in the defect in Spelling, which branch had been deprived of its due amount of attention, that the class might press on in Arithmetic. The Committee now allude to these facts, not in censure, for the *general* appearance of the School did not make that needful ; but as an example to impress upon the Teachers in the Primary Schools, often so zealous, with a praise-worthy



zeal, to secure a great progress for their classes, the desirableness of holding their pupils back within the limits assigned by the Rules. It is better to spend time in going over and over, and then again over, the earlier lessons, thus laying the firm foundations for the years to come, than to hurry young pupils forward with too ambitious haste in any branch of study.

With this exception, the Committee commend this School for its progress during the year.

At the close of the last Term, Mrs. Howe resigned her office, and Miss Sallie W. Dudley of this Town took her place, beginning March 3. This Teacher is young, but not entirely inexperienced; and from her quiet and gentle but firm disposition, and her strong sense of duty, the Committee expect for the School most prosperous results.

## VII. MISCELLANEOUS.

The Committee are happy to report that, at the close of the year, twenty-four pupils, mostly from our Grammar Schools, passed a creditable examination for admission to the High School. The number and the proficiency of the applicants, and their success in entering, were alike gratifying. No Teachers were present; printed questions were used; and a per-centage of correct answers in each study was required.

Attention is invited to the Statistical Tables in the Appendix, together with the Rules of the School Committee, the System of Instruction, the Financial Statement, and the General Notices.

*The Statistical Tables*, (marked A, B, C, D, E) give at one view the present state of all the Schools, and items of historical interest regarding them.

*The Rules of the School Committee* have been tested as an experiment through the year, and found to work well, especially in improving the attendance (both average and at examination) as a comparison of those items in the reports for the first with



the succeeding Terms of the High School will show. These Rules, and this System of Instruction (including Rules for registering the performances of the pupils and a list of Books adopted for use in the Schools) are published with this Report for the information of all concerned; *and all the Teachers are expected to guide themselves accordingly.* If in any respects these arrangements should, by actual trial, be found defective, they can, upon proper representations by Teachers or others, be altered and improved. Until so changed they are in force.

*The System of Instruction* is designed to secure uniformity in the books used in Schools of similar grade, with unity and method in the course of study throughout the Town. Each Grade of Schools will thus do its own work, and all will combine into a System characterized by unity and completeness.

*The System of Marking* for registering the Pupils in their various School performances, is intended to direct the Teacher's personal attention to each act of every pupil; to impress the pupil with a constant sense of responsibility, since all his performances are thus made subjects of permanent record; to encourage a generous emulation among the Scholars; and to present to the Committee and others upon a brief inspection, the state of any School.

Rev. Charles Noyes, one of the members of this Committee, has established an Evening School on two evenings in the week, free for all boys and young men who choose to attend. More than 30 boys have from time to time availed themselves of its privileges. The principal studies are Writing and Arithmetic. This School is private, and not under any control of this Committee. But the other members of this Committee cannot avoid expressing their sympathy in this work of one of their number, and their hope that in view of the profitable results secured, this Evening School may at some favorable future, be taken under the patronage of the Town and of the School Committee, supplied with fitting books and accommodations and assistants in the work of teaching. To do this would require only a very small sum, and it would doubtless reach a class who cannot attend at the regular hours of the School, or who have unfortunately grown beyond the usual age of pupils without securing the education needful for a good life's work.



*The Financial Statement* is taken from the Town Treasurer's Report. As in that Report, which is supplied to all the Citizens, the items are all given, it is not deemed needful to repeat them in these pages.

*The Committee respectfully recommend* that the sum of six thousand four hundred dollars (\$6,400) be *appropriated* by the Town for Teachers' wages and for fuel for the ensuing year. They feel that many considerations urge the Town to deal liberally with its System of Schools. By these considerations the Town has showed itself influenced in the past. For the future, the arguments which should lead the Town to continue its liberal support of its Schools, are such as should lead a parent to care for his little ones. The intellectual wants of a community can never be disregarded without procuring an injury that shall appear not only in mental, moral, and social aspects, but also in depreciation of the value of property itself. No town can attract or even retain the good elements of population that does not foster with open hand the institutions of Education. No plea of economy can avail against this liberal support of schools. Such economy would be self-destructive. It is economy which Brighton has not practised, and, which it is believed, Brighton will not now begin.

Respectfully, in behalf of the School Committee,

RICHARD GLEASON GREENE,

*Chairman.*

RICHARD GLEASON GREENE,	}	<i>Board of School Committee.</i>
CHARLES NOYES,		
J. P. CUSHING WINSHIP,		

Brighton, Mass., 10 March, 1862.



(A.)

## TABLE OF SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

SCHOOLS.			TEACHERS.				
Name.	Location.	Established.	Name.	Nativity.	Office.	Began.	Annual Salary.
High	Academy Hill	1841, May	{ Lucius Henry Buckingham { Anna Judson George	Boston	Principal	1859, May 2	\$1,200.00
{ Bennett { Grammar, { 1st Dep. } { 2d " } { 3d " }	{ Winship Place { Agricultural Hill	1847, Sept. 8	{ Solomon Allen Poor { Sarah Elizabeth Waugh { Sarah Emma Gilman	Plymouth, N. H. Gloucester Brighton	Assistant Principal 1st Ass't.	1857, Mar. 31	325.00
Harvard Grammar	North Harvard Street	1848, Dec.	{ Guilford Dudley Bigelow { Mary Barrett Monto	Newport, Me. Harvard	2d Ass't. Principal	1861, Mar. 4	325.00
Primary, I.	North Harvard Street	1845	{ Melissa Ann Tuxbury { Mary Fragnès Child	Boston	Assistant	1859, Dec. 19	850.00
" II.	School Street	(When ?)	{ Harriet A—— Henderson { Ellen Harris	Saco, Me. Lincoln	Teacher	1859, Sep. 8	132.00
" III.	Oak Square	(When ?)	{ Isabella Frances Collins { Mary Elizabeth Wellman	Brighton	Assistant	1859, Aug. 30	264.00
" IV.	Academy Hill	1845	{ Mary Elizabeth Wellman { Mary Emeline Kingsley	Brighton	Principal	1860, Mar. 12	264.00
" V.	Union Street	(When ?)	Sallie Wilson Dudley	Brighton	Teacher	1858, Sep. 14	182.00
" VI.	Allston Street	(When ?)		Brighton	Teacher	1855, Dec. 3	264.00
9 Schools, 11 Departments.	7 Buildings		15 Teachers; 3 male, 12 fem.	Brighton, 8, elsewhere.	Principal	1860, Dec. 11	264.00
1 High, 2 Gram., 6 Prim.					Assistant	1857, Aug. 31	132.00
					Teacher	1861, Dec. 2	264.00
					Teacher	1862, Mar. 3	264.00
					9 Prin'ts. 6 Ass'ts.		5855.00

This Table shows the Schools and Teachers as they *now are*. The facts relating to the *year past*, are to be found in the body of the Report.



(B.)

## TABLE OF ATTENDANCE.

SCHOOL.	Spring and Summer Term.				Autumn Term.				Winter Term.				The Whole Year.				
	Pupils Registered	Belonging at Close	Present at Exam.	Average Attendance	Pupils Registered	Belonging at Close	Present at Exam.	Average Attendance	Pupils Registered	Belonging at Close	Present at Exam.	Average Attendance	Average Registered	Average Belonging at Close	Average at Exam.	Average Attendance	Per Cent. of Atten.
High	70	59	40	47	52	48	48	44	49	46	45	42	57	51	44	45	78
Bennett Grammar, 1st Dep.	61	49	38	44	50	50	40	40	50	49	42	40	53	49	40	41	72
“ “ 2d “	59	48	39	41	48	47	43	41	46	46	43	39	51	47	41	40	78
“ “ 3d “	65	48	32	36	50	46	32	31	50	48	37	38	55	47	33	35	63
“ “ All Depts.	185	145	109	124	148	143	115	113	146	143	122	117	159	143	115	118	74
Harvard Grammar	104	65	55	63	84	74	72	70	77	72	71	70	88	70	66	67	76
Primary, I.	92	60	55	54	72	69	58	61	66	59	53	50	76	62	55	55	72
“ II.	92	76	77	63	77	75	71	69	90	87	80	74	86	79	76	68	79
“ III.	65	55	50	46	53	44	40	40	47	44	41	36	55	47	43	40	72
“ IV.	98	93	90	73	96	94	85	83	100	96	80	74	98	94	85	76	77
“ V.	84	68	55	58	80	65	65	63	69	62	60	53	77	65	60	58	75
“ VI.	65	60	52	54	62	58	56	52	57	55	50	48	61	57	52	51	83
9 Schools.	855	681	583	582	724	670	610	595	701	664	602	564	757	668	596	578	76



## (C.)

## TABLE OF ANNUAL PROGRESS.

(Continued from Report of the previous Year.)

Year.	Population.	No. of Public Schools.	School Children.	Appropriation for Wages and Fuel.	Rank in State for amt. app.
1837	1,337	4	337	1,000	
1838 - 39	"	4	338	1,200	
1839 - 40	"	4	323	1,200	
1840 - 41	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841 - 42	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842 - 43	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843 - 44	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844 - 45	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845 - 46	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846 - 47	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847 - 48	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848 - 49	"	9	496	2,700	11
1849 - 50	2,356	9	452	3,100	8
1850 - 51	"	9	402	3,500	3
1851 - 52	"	9	445	3,500	6
1852 - 53	"	9	455	3,500	11
1853 - 54	"	9	475	3,900	9
1854 - 55	"	9	500	3,900	10
1855 - 56	2,895	9	612	4,200	25
1856 - 57	"	9	587	4,800	15
1857 - 58	"	9	550	5,300	6
1858 - 59	"	9	533	5,500	6
1859 - 60	"	9	673	5,650	17
1860 - 61	3,375	9	654	6,000	16
1861 - 62	"	9	719	6,200	
1862 - 63	"	9	*	6,400	

\* To be ascertained in May.



## (D.)

## TABLE OF ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.

Amount expended since 1840-41 for wages and fuel, compensation to Committees; and since 1848-49, the total for all School purposes.

(Continued from Report of the previous Year.)

Year.	Wages and Fuel.	Prudential Committee.	General Committee.	For all School Purposes.
1840-41	\$ 1,040.08	. .	\$ 79.00	
1841-42	1,954.83	. .	101.00	
1842-43	1,958.94	\$ 40	58.00	
1843-44	1,994.65	40	85.00	
1844-45	1,905.28	40	75.00	
1845-46	1,730.05	40	75.00	
1846-47	2,058.09	60	75.00	
1847-48	2,374.17	60	80.00	
1848-49	2,731.66	60	74.00	\$ 3,745.10
1849-50	3,176.89	60	92.50	3,731.49
1850-51	3,244.14	60	120.00	4,017.75
1851-52	3,517.63	60	90.00	4,083.79
1852-53	3,595.18	60	70.00	4,080.38
1853-54	3,978.16	60	80.00	13,349.03
1854-55	4,272.29	60	102.00	5,068.08
1855-56	4,259.93	60	146.08	10,265.25
1856-57	4,899.41	60	125.00	16,347.61
1857-58	5,520.90	60	141.00	6,527.15
1858-59	5,676.97	60	130.00	6,388.49
1859-60	5,847.91	40	150.00	7,123.58
1860-61	5,857.10	40	120.00	19,135.47
1861-62	6,300.74	20	150.00	8,836.41



## TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RANK.

BRIGHTON COMPARED IN THREE RESPECTS WITH SOME SELECTED TOWNS IN THE STATE.

This Table, which is compiled from the last Report of the Board of Education in this State, presents, with Brighton, the towns in its vicinity, and the larger cities of the State. There are 334 towns in the State.										
TOWN	Population 1860	Children between 5 & 15 yrs. May 1, '60	1st Comparison			2d Comparison			3d Comparison	
			Appropriation		Rank in State	1860, Taxable property	Percentage appropri- ated	Rank in State	Average attendance	Rank in State
Total	For each child									
BRIGHTON	3,375	654	\$6,233.00	\$9.53	16th	\$3,488,577.00	.00179	207th	565	54th
Brookline	5,164	698	15,375.00	22.18	1st	10,598,546.00	.00145	285th	674	12th
Somerville	8,025	1,494	16,500.00	11.04	6th	6,033,053.00	.00273	23d	1,190	114th
Dedham	6,330	1,184	12,195.00	10.30	10th	4,379,743.00	.00278	20th	894	172d
Charlestown	25,063	4,194	42,791.00	10.20	11th	15,420,760.00	.00277	21st	3,543	69th
Roxbury	25,137	4,787	48,810.00	10.19	12th	24,000,000.00	.00203	135th	3,995	79th
New Bedford	22,300	3,810	36,732.00	9.64	14th	24,196,138.00	.00152	273d	3,101	98th
Boston	177,818	32,641	312,351.00	9.56	15th	312,000,000.00	.00100	328th	23,222	230th
Newton	8,382	1,492	14,000.00	9.38	17th	7,146,081.00	.00196	151st	1,095	200th
Lowell	36,827	5,686	47,000.00	8.26	22d	20,894,207.00	.00225	86th	4,481	127th
Cambridge	26,060	4,891	40,238.00	8.22	24th	20,515,905.00	.00196	149th	3,858	125th
Watertown	3,270	607	4,750.00	7.82	29th	2,514,020.00	.00189	169th	489	102d
Springfield	15,199	2,472	18,500.00	7.53	31st	8,669,806.00	.00215	86th	1,934	138th
Waltham	6,397	1,106	7,800.00	7.05	41st	4,694,856.00	.00166	234th	920	81st
Worcester	24,960	4,824	31,858.00	6.60	51st	17,626,453.00	.00181	201st	3,205	267th
Salem	22,252	3,684	23,878.00	6.48	54th	14,722,500.00	.00162	245th	2,289	296th
Needham	2,658	561	2,700.00	4.81	129th	1,604,985.00	.00168	232d	366	277th

This Table, which is compiled from the last Report of the Board of Education in this State, presents, with Brighton, the towns in its vicinity, and the larger cities of the State. There are 334 towns in the State.



## (F.)

## EXPENDITURES.

(For items, see Town Treasurer's Report, from which the following is compiled.)

Salaries of Teachers, . . . . .	\$5,812.50
Fuel, . . . . .	488.24
Incidentals, . . . . .	1,023.37
Salaries of General School Committee, . .	150.00
Salaries of Prudential Committees, .	20.00
Special Appropriations, . . . . .	1,342.30
<hr/>	
Total, for 1861 - 62, . . . . .	\$8,836.41

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*Amount received from State School Fund,*      \$127.53

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## (G.)

STUDENTS IN COLLEGE, AND GRADUATES,  
FROM BRIGHTON.

(Materials supplied by Rev. Frederic A. Whitney.)

STUDENTS NOW IN HARVARD COLLEGE, from this Town,  
are the following :—

*Junior Class.*

1. Stevens, Edward Lewis, son of Silas Stevens.

*Sophomore Class.*

2. Braman, Chandler Balch, son of Isaac G. Braman, M. D.
3. Sinclair, Albert Thomas, son of Thomas Sinclair.



RECENT GRADUATES, from this Town, are the following:—

1. <sup>Charles</sup>~~Joseph~~ Tilton Duncklee, son of Joseph Duncklee; Harvard Coll., 1861; now in Junior Class, Law School, University at Cambridge.

2. John Bigelow, son of Samuel Bigelow; Harvard Coll., 1861; late Junior 1st Lieut., 2d Mass. Light Battery; now Adjutant, Maryland Battery.

3. James Holton Rice, son of Edmund Rice; Harvard Coll., 1861; now 1st Lieut., Co. F, 19th Regt., Mass. Vol.

4. James Madison Whittemore, Jr., son of James M. Whittemore, M. D.; U. S. Military Acad., West Point, 1861; now 1st Lieut. U. S. Ordnance Dept.

5. George Willis Warren, son of George Washington Warren, Harvard Coll., 1860; now Sub-master, High School, Charlestown.

6. Michael Norton, son of John Norton; Harvard Coll., 1859; now Teacher, Philadelphia, Pa.

7. George Franklin Fuller, son of Granville Fuller; entered Yale Coll., 1852; then of Lawrence Scientific School, University at Cambridge; now Architect, Boston.

8. George Brooks Bigelow, son of Samuel Bigelow; Harvard Coll., 1856; now Counsellor at Law, Boston.

9. Henry Baldwin, son of Life Baldwin; Yale Coll., 1854; now Counsellor at Law, Boston; Trial Justice, Middlesex Co.; Member for Middlesex Dist. No. 8, Mass. House of Representatives.

10. William Wirt Warren, son of William Warren; Harvard Coll., 1854; now Counsellor at Law, Boston; Town Clerk, Brighton.



(H.)

# RULES OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

ADOPTED, 1862.

Comprising GENERAL RULES, THE SYSTEM OF REGISTERS, THE COURSE OF INSTRUCTION, AND THE SCHOOL BOOKS ADOPTED.

## I. ADMISSION AND TRANSFER OF PUPILS.

### 1. AGE REQUIRED.

No child under five years of age shall be admitted as a scholar.

### 2. TRANSFER OF PUPILS.

(1.) Pupils shall be transferred from one grade of schools to the next higher grade, annually, at the beginning of the School Year, after passing satisfactory examination before the General School Committee, on the entire course of study, to the point at which the candidate seeks to enter.

(2.) For transfer from the Primary to the Grammar Schools, the ordinary Examination at the end of the School Year shall be sufficient, in the cases of those Scholars, whose examination the General School Committee may deem satisfactory, and who may appear creditably on the Registers of the Schools and in the Reports of the Teachers.

(3.) For transfer from the Grammar Schools to the High School, seventy per cent. of correct answers shall be required of those examined. This percentage shall be deemed indispensable in Spelling, Arithmetic, and Grammar; while, in all other branches of study, scholars whose percentage is not below fifty per cent. may be conditionally transferred by the General School Committee.

### 3. SPECIAL ADMISSIONS AND PROMOTIONS.

Children who may become residents of the Town after the beginning of the School Year, may be admitted as Scholars, or, those in Schools of lower grade, whom it may be deemed



desirable to promote, may be promoted at any time, on examination by the General School Committee, if they are found qualified to join any class existing in the School to which such promotion would raise them.

## II. ATTENDANCE.

### 1. ATTENDANCE AT THE DAILY SESSIONS.

When the absences of any Scholar exceed in number Ten Half Days in any Term of School, such Scholar shall be considered as having resigned membership in the School, and shall be re-admitted only by order of some member of the General School Committee.

#### *Proviso for the preceding Rule.*

The Teacher, on personal knowledge, or satisfactory evidence, that a Scholar's absences are occasioned by sickness or other just cause, may, at discretion, suspend the operation of the preceding Rule. But, in case of ten *unexcused* absences, the Rule as above shall always take effect.

### 2. ATTENDANCE AT THE EXAMINATIONS.

Any Scholar, absent from Examination at the close of any term of School, shall, except in extraordinary cases, pass a similar examination, before one or more of the General School Committee, previous to resuming his attendance in the Schools.

## III. DISCIPLINE.

1. The Pupils shall be taught good morals and good manners; and particular attention shall be paid to correctness of deportment and neatness of appearance.

2. It shall be the duty of the Teachers to maintain a kind and parental discipline in the Schools. They shall keep a Record of all cases of corporeal or other equally severe Punishment, for the inspection of the General School Committee.



## IV. REGISTERS.

## 1. THE REGISTERS SPECIFIED.

The Teachers shall keep registers, as follows : —

- 1). The Register of Attendance.
- 2). The Register of Deportment.
- 3). The Register of Study.

## (1.) THE REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE.

On this Register shall appear the *full* Name, and Age, and Number of each Scholar, with the record of his or her Attendance on each half-day session of School. This Register shall be kept according to the plan and upon the Blank Forms supplied by the State Board of Education.

## (2.) THE REGISTER OF DEPORTMENT.

On this register is marked each Scholar's Deportment for each half-day session.

Every separate fault in Deportment, each violation of Rules, or other misbehavior of any Scholar, secures one bad mark opposite that scholar's name or number on this Register.

Absence is marked "a" in place of a number.

## (3.) THE REGISTER OF STUDY.

1). *In the High School and Grammar Schools.*

On this Register, each Recitation, or other exercise in any one branch of study, by each pupil in the High School and Grammar Schools, is recorded.

Each Recitation, or other exercise of study,	Perfect,	5.
" " " " " "	Good,	{ 4
		{ 3.
" " " " " "	Bad,	{ 2
		{ 1.
" " " " " "	Utter Failure,	0.

Absence is marked "a" in place of a number.

Each defective Recitation, for which the Teacher receives satisfactory excuse, is marked "e" instead of a number.



2). *In the Primary Schools.*

In the Primary Schools, each Recitation is not marked separately; but one number represents all the Recitations, or other exercises of study, for the half-day session.

## 2. SUMMATION OF THE REGISTERS.

(1.) At the close of each term of school, a Summation shall be made of all the numbers which each Scholar has received on each of the three Registers separately, and on all the Registers combined.

These four Summations shall be made in the manner following:—

1st. *On the Register of Attendance.*—Each punctual attendance at a half-day session is counted as 5: each late attendance, 2: each absence, 0.

2d. *On the Register of Deportment.*—Each bad mark subtracts 1.

3d. *On the Register of Study.*—The numbers are all added as they stand recorded.

4th. *On the General Register.*—The three Totals as above are added.

(2.) These Summations, embracing the whole Term to the close of the week preceding the Examination, shall be laid before the General School Committee at the Examination. This Committee will make due mention of extraordinary attainments, or extraordinary deficiencies, as shown by the Summations for each Scholar.

(3.) It is recommended that the Summation be made weekly, if convenient to the Teacher, thus relieving the labors at the close of the Term, and enabling the Teacher to announce at each week's close, and perhaps to report to parents or guardians, the Rank in School which each Scholar holds. This, however, is optional with the Teacher.



## V. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

## (I.) PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

[Time: — Three or four years.]

## SEVENTH CLASS.

Alphabet.

## SIXTH CLASS.

Reading — Sargent's Primer ; Reading and Spelling.

## FIFTH CLASS.

Reading — Sargent's First Reader (begun).

Spelling —       “       “       “       “

Table of Numbers.

## FOURTH CLASS.

Reading — Sargent's First Reader (finished).

Spelling — Worcester's Elementary Spellg. Bk. (begun.)

Marks of Punctuation.

Abbreviations.

Numerals.

## THIRD CLASS.

Reading — Sargent's Second Reader (begun).

Spelling — Worcester's Elementary Spellg. Bk. (continued).

Arithmetic — Eaton's First Lessons in Arithmetic.

Geography — Warren's Primary Geog. (through Part I.).

Writing — on Slate or Blackboard.

## SECOND CLASS.

Reading — Sargent's Second Reader (finished).

Spelling — Worcester's Elementary Spellg. Bk. (continued).

Arithmetic — Colburn's Mental Arith. (through Sect. 5th).

Geography — Warren's Primary Geog. (through North Amer.).

Writing — Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writg. Bks., No. 1.

Drawing — Exercises.



## FIRST CLASS.

Reading — Sargent's Third Reader.

Spelling — Worcester's Elementary Spellg. Bk. (finished).

Arithmetic, Mental — Colburn's (through Section 7th).

“ Written — Exercises in First Four Rules.

Geography — Warren's Primary Geog. (finished).

Writing — Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writ. Bks. Nos. 2, 3.

Drawing — Exercises.

## (II.) GRAMMAR SCHOOLS. •

## FOURTH CLASS — FIRST YEAR.

Reading — Sargent's Fourth Reader (begun).

Spelling — Worcester's Pronouncing Spellg. Bk. (begun).

Geography — Warren's Com. Schl. Geog. (begun).

Arithmetic, Mental — Colburn's (begin Sect. 8th).

“ Written — First Four Rules.

Writing — Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writ. Bks., Nos. 3, 4.

## THIRD CLASS — SECOND YEAR.

Reading — Sargent's Fourth Reader (continued).

Spelling — Worcester's Pronouncing Spellg. Bk. (continued).

Geography — Warren's Com. Schl. Geog. (continued).

Arithmetic, Mental — Colburn's (finished).

“ Written — Emerson's, or Greenleaf's (begun).

Writing — Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writ. Bks., Nos. 4, 5.

Map Drawing.

## SECOND CLASS — THIRD YEAR.

Reading — Sargent's Fourth Reader (continued).

Spelling — Worcester's Pronouncing Spellg. Bk. (continued).

Geography — Warren's Com. Schl. Geog. (continued).

Grammar — Greene's (Saml. S.) Introduction (begun).

Arithmetic — { Emerson's (to Miscell. Ex. in Vul. Fractions).  
                          { Greenleaf's (to Decimal Fractions).

Writing — Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writ. Bks., Nos. 5, 6.

Map Drawing.



## FIRST CLASS — FOURTH YEAR.

Reading — Sargent's Fourth Reader (finished).  
 Spelling — Worcester's Pronouncing Spellg. Bk. (finished).  
 Geography — Warren's Com. Schl. Geog. (continued).  
 History — Quackenbos's U. S. Hist. (through Part XI).  
 Grammar — Greene's (Saml. S.) Introduction (finished).  
 Arithmetic — { Emerson's (to Compound Interest).  
                       { Greenleaf's (to Equation of Payments).  
 Writing — Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writ. Bks., Nos. 6, 7.  
 Map Drawing.  
 Composition — (once a week).  
 Declamation — (Exercises once a week).

## (III.) HIGH SCHOOL.

## FOURTH CLASS — FIRST YEAR.

Arithmetic — Emerson's Third Part (finished).  
 History of U. S. — Quackenbos's (finished).  
 Physical Geography. — Warren's.  
 English Grammar — S. S. Greene's (Parsing and Analysis).

## THIRD CLASS — SECOND YEAR.

Algebra — Sherwin's Elementary.  
 General History — (Worcester's Introductory; Feudal System; Crusades; England; France).  
 Natural Philosophy — Quackenbos's.  
 French — Robertsonian System. Ernst's Series. Modern Publications.

## SECOND CLASS — THIRD YEAR.

Geometry — Introduction to Geom. and Science of Form.  
 Book Keeping, Double Entry — Mayhew's System.  
 General History, Ancient — Worcester's.  
 Science, Physiology.  
   " Zoölogy — Ware and Smellie's Philos. of Nat. Hist.  
   " Botany — Gray's "How Plants Grow."  
 French — Robertsonian System. Ernst's Series. Modern Publications.



## FIRST CLASS — FOURTH YEAR.

Mathematics — Special Course.

Rhetoric — Quackenbos's.

Science, Chemistry — Youmans'.

“ Astronomy.

“ Geology.

French — Robertsonian System. Ernst's Series. Modern Publications.

Constitution of the United States — Shepard's Text Bk.

## CLASSICAL COURSE.

*Optional in place of French and Mathematics.*

1st Year — Latin Grammar, Andrews and Stoddard's.  
Latin Reader, Andrews'.

2d Year — Cæsar, Andrews'.  
Greek Gram., Sophocles'. Greek Less., Sophocles'.

3d Year — Virgil. Anabasis, Crosby's.

4th Year — Cicero, Folsom's. Iliad (three books).  
Ancient Geography.

## GENERAL EXERCISES.

First Year — Writing. Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writg.  
Bks.

Through the Course — Reading: Spelling. General Literature.

“ “ “ — Composition (once a week).

“ “ “ — Declamation (Boys, once a fortnight).

## NOTE.

The publication of the Rules with the Course of Instruction, System of Marking, and List of School Books adopted, seemed needful *this year*; and it was decided to incorporate them in the Report rather than to print them in a separate Pamphlet. It is several years since a School System for the ~~Young~~ *Young* has been published; and several years will probably pass before a re-publication will be needed. The slight additional length of the present Report is thus explained.

R. G. G.



## IN TOWN MEETING, 11 MARCH, 1862.

With the Report, the above Statistical Tables and other Documents, are respectfully submitted on behalf of the School Committee.

RICHARD GLEASON GREENE,  
*Chairman.*

RICHARD GLEASON GREENE, }  
CHARLES NOYES, } *Board of*  
J. P. CUSHING WINSHIP. } *School Committee.*

“Voted, That the Report be accepted, and the reading thereof be dispensed with.”

A true copy. Attest.

W. W. WARREN,  
*Town Clerk.*

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In Town Meeting, 10 March, 1862, the sum of \$6,400 was appropriated for Teachers' Wages and for fuel, and \$600 for Incidental Expenses, for the year ensuing.

At this date, the terms of service of Mr. Greene and Mr. Winship expired by limitation. In the Report of the School Committee for the year previous it had been stated that at the Town Meeting in 1861, Mr. Noyes was chosen for one year, and Mr. Greene for two. But a consultation of the official Town Records, a few days before the last Town Meeting, revealed the fact, that this statement was a mistake, and its correction is here given in order to rectify the published Report of the Committee as an affair of history. Mr. Noyes' official term was found to continue one year longer. Mr. Greene's and ~~Mr.~~ Winship's terms expired by limitation. Mr. Greene, declining to be a candidate for re-election, was succeeded by Rev. Ralph H. Bowles, chosen to serve two years. Mr. Winship was re-elected, chosen to serve three years.



Thus, the new Board of School Committee was constituted, March, 1862, as follows : —

Rev. Charles Noyes, to serve one year ;

Mr. John Perkins Cushing Winship, to serve three years ;

Rev. Ralph Hart Bowles, to serve two years.

## VARIOUS NOTICES.

### *School Terms.*

There are three terms in the School Year. These comprise forty-four weeks.

### *Examinations.*

The School Committee will examine all the Schools during the last week of each Term.

The principal Examination will be at the close of the School Year. At that time promotions from the Primary to the Grammar Schools will be decided ; and, in the Grammar Schools, announcement will then be made of the time and place appointed for the Examination for admissions to the High School.

### *Vacations and Recess.*

There are Three Vacations, and One Recess. These comprise eight weeks.

### *Holidays.*

The following days are prescribed Holidays : —

All Wednesday and Saturday afternoons,

New Year's Day,

Washington's Birth Day,

Fast Day,

May Day,

Independence Day,

Harvard College Commencement Day,

Thanksgiving Day,

Christmas Day.



*Salaries of Teachers.*

These are payable at the Town Treasurer's Office:— To the Teachers in the High School and to those Teachers in the Grammar Schools who have charge of distinct Departments, Salaries are payable quarterly, at the times following:— the last Monday in May, August, November, 1862; and the last Monday in February, 1863.

To all other Teachers, the weekly compensation is payable on the last Saturday of each School Term.

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 CALENDAR.

## THE SCHOOL YEAR.

BEGINS—1862, Last Monday (24th day) in February.

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 1. *The Winter Vacation—One Week.*

Begins—1862, Last Monday (24th day) in February.

Ends—1862, First Monday (3d day) in March.

## 2. THE SPRING AND SUMMER TERM—TWENTY-ONE WEEKS.

Begins—1862, First Monday (3d day) in March.

[*Recess*: One Week—Fourth Monday (26th day) in May,  
to First Monday (2d day) in June.]

Ends—1862, Last Monday (28th day) in July.

3. *The Summer Vacation—Five Weeks.*

Begins—1862, Fourth Monday (28th day) in July.

Ends—1862, First Monday (1st day) in September.



## 4. THE AUTUMN TERM — TWELVE WEEKS.

Begins — 1862, First Monday (1st day) in September.

Ends — 1862, Fourth Monday (24th day) in November.

5. *The Autumn Vacation — One Week.*

Begins — 1862, Fourth Monday (24th day) in November.

Ends — 1862, First Monday (1st day) in December.

## 6. THE WINTER TERM — TWELVE WEEKS.

Begins — 1862, First Monday (1st day) in December.

Ends — 1863, Last Monday (23d day) in February.

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*The School Year ends —*

1863, Last Monday (23d day) in February.

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TWENTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

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THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF

4057-5

THE TOWN OF BRIGHTON.

1862-63.

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CAMBRIDGE:

PRINTED BY ALLEN AND FARNHAM.

1863.









TWENTY-FIFTH

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1863.



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# REPORT.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON :

The School Committee respectfully submit their Twenty-fifth Annual Report.

## SCHOOLS.

The number of School-houses has not been increased during the last year.

In District No. ~~8~~<sup>I</sup>, the number of scholars increased so largely that it was found necessary at the commencement of the Winter Term, to supply them with additional accommodations. To meet the want thus occasioned, the hitherto unoccupied hall of the school-house has been supplied with desks, and other necessary furniture. The upper room thus furnished, has been occupied during the last term by the principal teacher of the school, and the lower room by her assistant. The change above-mentioned was effected at but small expense, which was defrayed without exceeding the limits of the appropriation for *incidental expenses*.

## TEACHERS.

The number of teachers has been increased since the date of the last Report, by the addition of an assistant in Primary No. 1; which addition was peremptorily demanded by the increased







After a week's recess of the school, Miss Rosa A. Roberts assumed the place of teacher. At the outset, her task was one of peculiar difficulty, the school being in a confused and chaotic condition; yet, at the close of the term, we had reason to be highly gratified with the general appearance of the scholars, and formed great expectations of their future welfare and progress. These expectations have been more than fulfilled. By her genial manners and judicious methods of discipline, Miss Roberts has secured the love and esteem of her pupils, and the result is apparent in their good order and deportment, and improvement in their studies. As an instructor, she is not contented with a mere recitation in the words of the text-book, but imparts oral instruction to her classes during the recitation, making the subject of the lesson so easy of apprehension, that what before was committed as a task, whether understood or not, is made plain to the understanding of the pupils.

Owing to the large increase in the number of pupils in this school, we found it necessary at the close of the Fall Term, to appoint an assistant teacher. Miss Mary B. Monto who commenced her labors at the opening of the Winter Term, has proved herself well qualified for her position.

We regard this school, under its present management, as second to none in the Town, in the advantages and facilities it affords for the education of the young. It has never, since our acquaintance with it, been in a more prosperous condition than at the present time.

#### DISTRICT NO. 2.

*Principals* (successively), Miss MARY F. CHILD,

“ SARAH F. JONES.

*Assistant,*

“ HARRIET A. HENDERSON.

In their last Report, the Committee say they have “nothing but praise for this school, with its faithful and earnest teachers.”



There has been a change of teachers during the year, but the same Report will apply at the present time.

Miss Child resigned her situation at the close of the Summer Term. The school while under her care had attained to marked excellence. The progress made by the scholars in all branches of study was worthy of great commendation. Miss Henderson, the assistant, has fully realized the wishes and expectations of the Committee. The cheerful and happy faces of the children under her charge, their good deportment and their ready recitations, showed that there was that mutual love between teacher and pupils which is an indispensable condition of success,—the lack of which no intellectual qualifications can supply.

At the close of the Summer Term, we were at a loss where to find a teacher to fill the place rendered vacant by the resignation of Miss Child. In the present teacher we found one who needed only experience to test and prove her qualifications for her office. She commenced her labors under circumstances that made her task one of great difficulty. The school-room was not large enough for the accommodation of the pupils. At the Fall Examination we attributed the defects we noticed to this fact, and to the difficulties and trials that inevitably accompany a change of teachers.

At the commencement of the Winter Term the school was divided, and a separate room assigned to the Assistant. This change relieved the Principal of much labor in governing her scholars, and gave her more time to devote to their instruction. The improvement perceptible at the Annual Examination assured us that the division of the school was a wise and judicious measure. The deportment of the pupils, and their intelligent recitations proved the skilful training they had received, their own faithfulness in their work, and their readiness to comply with the wishes of the teacher.

The school is now in good condition, and in excellent hands.



We expect to see it, not only preserve the good name it has already acquired, but make progress during the coming year, proportioned to the additional time given to the teacher, and the better accommodations with which the school has been supplied.

### DISTRICT NO. 3.

*Teacher,* Miss ELLEN HARRIS.

We are able to report that this school has improved very much during the past year. The correct deportment of the pupils, their clearness and distinctness of enunciation, and their accurate answers to the questions proposed to them at the several examinations, spoke well for the instruction and discipline of the teacher.

### DISTRICT NO. 4.

*Principals* (successively), Miss ISABELLA F. COLLINS,

“ ELIZA HARRIS.

*Assistant,*

“ MARY E. WELLMAN.

Miss Collins, who had been teacher of this school since December, 1860, and who had been very successful in her labors, was obliged by ill health to resign her situation before the close of the Spring and Summer Term.

Miss Eliza Harris entered on her duties as Principal, June 2, 1862. It is due to her to state, that her school is, all things considered, the most difficult of any in our Town. The school-room is larger than any Primary school-room should be made, yet, large as it is, it is not adequate to the number of scholars who pursue their studies in it. Many of the children have had no desks, but have been obliged to sit upon benches around the room. In addition to these obstacles in the way of the teacher, there have been some scholars in the school who, by their mis-



conduct in study hours, and by their truancy, have shown themselves fit candidates for the Reform School. We consider that the circumstances just mentioned, afford a partial explanation of the fact that the school has lost ground during the past year. Much time and labor will be needed to bring it again to a position in which it shall compare favorably with the rest of our Primary Schools.

At the examinations held during the year, the recitations in the various branches of study have not been such as we could desire. In spelling, the most important of Primary School studies, the recitations have been very deficient. With the commencement of the new school year, the worst obstacles which have opposed the teacher will be removed, and we look for great improvement in the future, both in the deportment and recitations of the school.

The remarks already made do not apply to that portion of the school under the charge of the Assistant. The recitations of the pupils in her department assured us that they had excellent instruction during the year. Her methods of teaching are thorough, and she exercises a steady, quiet, and efficient control over those intrusted to her care. We deem her deserving of a higher position than that of assistant, which she has filled so long and so well.

#### **DISTRICT NO. 5.**

*Teacher, Miss MARY E. KINGSLEY.*

We have every reason to be satisfied with the fidelity, patience, and perseverance of the teacher of this school. The neatness and cleanly appearance of the school-room has attracted our special notice. The deportment and general appearance of the scholars is also worthy of special commendation. If the proficiency of the scholars in their studies has not been all that we could desire, it has been as good as we could



expect, considering the large number who attend the school. The names of eighty-two scholars were entered upon the Register during the last term, of whom seventy-eight belonged at the close. This number is almost double that which one teacher can be expected to instruct thoroughly and govern well.

Should an assistant be granted the present teacher, we doubt not that, before the close of another year, her school will show itself behind none others in the intellectual progress of its pupils.

#### DISTRICT NO. 6.

*Teacher, Miss SALLIE W. DUDLEY.*

This school is composed of such materials that we always expect to be gratified with the progress and attainments of the pupils. The parents of all of them are able and qualified to second the efforts of the teacher in their children's behalf.

During the past year nothing has happened to interfere with the uniform harmony and order of the school. It has enjoyed the services of a teacher well-adapted, by natural and acquired qualifications, for her position. She has labored with untiring zeal and assiduity in the performance of her task. She has deserved and won success. When she took the charge of the school the scholars were, as a whole, deficient in spelling, that branch having been greatly neglected, or very imperfect instruction having been imparted to the school. At the Annual Examination the spelling was worthy of *special commendation*; nor were the other recitations deserving of less praise.

While we can make so favorable a report of the condition of the school, we must say at the same time that it labors under great disadvantages. While all the other schools in town are furnished with good and commodious houses, the building in which this is kept is old, small, ill-arranged, and dilapidated. The inhabitants of this district have a just claim upon the town for enlarged and more convenient accommoda-



tions. In the present condition of public affairs, and in the present state of finances, we do not feel authorized to ask for the immediate erection of a new School-house, but we will express the hope that not many years will pass before the school accommodations of the Sixth District will be made equal to the just and legal claims of its inhabitants.

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## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

<i>Principal,</i>	Mr. GUILFORD D. BIGELOW.
<i>Assistants (successively),</i>	Miss MARY B. MONTGOMERY,
	Miss SOPHIA E. BALDWIN.

This school has been doing a good work during the past year, and we are well satisfied with the improvement that has been made. The Annual Examination was conducted almost entirely by the teachers. The recitations in Grammar and Arithmetic showed that the scholars were well acquainted with the principles involved, and that they had been carefully and thoroughly instructed. The recitations in History were perfect of their kind; they were given in the words of the book. We would suggest that the system of *memoriter* recitation is not the best method for imparting to scholars an available knowledge of any branch of study. While it has its advantages it has its defects which more than counterbalance them. It taxes the memory of the scholar without giving sufficient exercise to his reasoning faculties. No recitation in the words of the Text-book should be accepted, unless the pupil can also give an intelligent account of his lesson, in words of his own selection.

The Writing Books presented for our inspection gave evidence that Chirography had received its due share of attention.



The results were manifest in the improvement shown by comparison between the first and last written copies.

We were also gratified with the specimens of *maps* drawn by the scholars. All of them were neat and accurate, and some gave evidence of much talent and skill in those by whom they were executed.

The assistants who have labored in this school, during the year, have done all in their power for the advancement of their pupils. If the classes under their charge have not made all the improvement that could be desired, they have not fallen far below the standard they could be expected to attain.

#### BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Principal and Teacher*, 1st Department, Mr. SOLOMON A. POOR.

*Assistant*, 2d Department, Miss SARAH E. WAUGH.

*Assistant*, 3d Department, Miss SARAH E. GILMAN.

1st Department, Mr. SOLOMON A. POOR, Teacher.

This school has been brought to that condition in which we should expect to find it, considering the faithfulness and diligence of the teacher, and his long experience in his vocation. The visits of the Committee, during the year, have uniformly resulted in their pleasure and satisfaction. The government of the school is decided and parental. Its instruction is thorough and well-adapted to the mental capacities of the pupils. No school in which these conditions are to be found can fail to succeed.

We dispensed with the Annual Examination, and allowed the teacher to prepare his school for an *exhibition*. This consisted of recitations from the Text-books used in the several branches of study, of readings, and declamations. The scholars acquitted themselves well, and gave evidence, by the quality of their performances, that they had improved well the opportunities for instruction that had been afforded them.



## 2d Department, Miss SARAH E. WAUGH, Teacher.

This department, in its discipline, and in all the results of study, bears witness to the faithfulness and efficiency of the teacher. Her silent influence over her scholars is very great. We are perplexed to know how it is that she secures such admirable order in her room, with no appearance of outward appliances to maintain it.

Owing to the teacher's illness, the Annual Examination of her school was omitted; but we needed no examination to determine the character of our Report. The results of the year sustain the high reputation of the teacher.

## 3d Department, Miss SARAH E. GILMAN, Teacher.

At the commencement of the year this school was relieved of an incubus that had pressed heavily upon it, by the removal of several scholars unqualified to pursue their studies in it, to the Primary Schools, from which they had been transferred. All serious obstacles to the progress and advancement of the school were thus obviated. A fine field was opened for the teacher; from it she has reaped an abundant harvest. The recitations in Geography and Arithmetic at the several examinations were uniformly excellent. The spelling was all that we could desire.

At the last examination, conducted by the teacher, we had an excellent exhibition of the attainments of the pupils, and proof of the thoroughness of the instruction they had received. The reading in general was very good. That of some of the scholars would have done credit to those much more advanced in years. Specimens of map-drawing were submitted to our inspection, which were worthy of high praise, considering the youth of the pupils, and the little time devoted to the exercise.



## HIGH SCHOOL.

*Principal*, Mr. LUCIUS H. BUCKINGHAM.

*Assistant*, Miss ANNA J. GEORGE.

The agency of a well-ordered and well-conducted High School, in promoting the moral and intellectual welfare of our community, cannot be overestimated. It should have a beneficial influence upon all the other schools of the town, and nothing should be left undone to excite in all our children a desire to avail themselves of its privileges. In it, every child, whether rich or poor, has an opportunity (if he will improve it) to acquire a thorough and finished education. Given, a good High School, with well-governed and well-taught Grammar Schools to supply it with scholars well-qualified for admission to its privileges, — we know that all available means are employed to advance the youth of our town to that social position which can only be attained by sound intellectual culture and healthy morals.

This town has always been generous in its appropriations for the support of the High School. It is supplied with a building well-adapted for the purposes for which it is employed. A large number of parents are able and willing to grant their children the time necessary for their education in the higher branches of learning. Where so much is given, much is of right required in return. The labor performed and the results attained should be in direct proportion to the facilities afforded. Our fellow-citizens rightly look to their Committee and the teachers appointed by them, to bring their High School to a state of great efficiency, and expect that under their care, it will realize the expectations they entertain respecting it.

The Principal of our High School has given to the performance of his duties his best energies of mind and body. He has



appreciated the work he has undertaken, and has shown a readiness to do it manfully. In the government of the school he has discarded corporal punishment, and makes use of moral suasion as his only weapon. His system has succeeded well. The deportment and order of his school are excellent.

When we come to speak of the intellectual improvement of the scholars, we are obliged to qualify our praise. Some of the classes and some individuals in all the classes have made good use of their privileges, but we have been disappointed in our visits to the school, with the performances to which we have listened from time to time. There are, we are compelled to say it, many scholars in the school who do not appreciate the advantages they enjoy, and who have (or appear to have) but slight perception of their moral and religious obligation to improve the opportunities now offered them. We have failed to discern among them, what we regard as an indispensable condition of success, a *generous* rivalry to excel each other. Let those responsible for these defects, whether teachers or parents or children, use every exertion to remove them in time to come.

We notice with regret, that many scholars who enter the High School leave it when they have completed but a small part of the course of study marked out for them. This circumstance has a disastrous effect upon the school, and upon those who thus deprive themselves of the advantages of an education which would make them much better qualified for whatever department of life they enter upon.

We trust that before the close of another year, we shall find the defects of which we have spoken, perhaps too severely, corrected, and all the results we could hope for from the superior qualifications of the teachers, attained. We wish to enlist in support of the teachers' labors the kind sympathy and consideration of the parents of those intrusted to their care, and their



assistance and coöperation. They commit the education of their children to the teachers, let them impress upon their minds the duty of obedience to the rules and regulations of the school ; let them especially inculcate in their children, that love of knowledge for its own sake, without which the best endeavors of their instructors will fail of success.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### PARENTS' VISITS.

In the *Register* of each school, there is a page upon which each teacher is expected to record the visits received from members of the School Committee, and other friends. We find, on examination of these records, that the *parents* who should be most interested in the progress of the schools, have let them severely alone. The place where the child spends so large a portion of his time should be the occasional resort of his parents. They should know something more of the character of the teacher, and of her method of instruction and government, than what they derive from the reports of pupils, prejudiced as they so often are, by a desire to excuse their own idleness and misconduct. It is not enough that taxes are paid, and the election of school committees attended to ; the parents should know from personal observation, whether their servants faithfully perform the duties of their office, and should endeavor to assist them in their efforts, by a cordial sympathy and coöperation. We are glad to know that there are many in our town whose course indicates that they feel a deep interest in the welfare of the schools. Where these are most numerous, the schools are most successful.



## ATTENDANCE.

The average attendance of the scholars at their several schools during the past year, shows a gratifying improvement upon that of the year before. Then, it was 76 per cent.; for the past year it has been 79 per cent. We have made no comparison between our own schools and those of other towns, in this respect. *Our* attendance has not been what it ought to be. That fact should prompt us to exertion in the year to come.

So far as the low percentage of attendance is due to lack of power to prevent or to punish truancy, the difficulties in the way of its prevention, may be easily removed. We recommend to the town to consider what action it will take under the 4th and 5th sections of the 42d chapter of the General Statutes, and the 207th chapter of the Acts of 1862, by which each town or city is required to "make all needful provisions and arrangements concerning habitual truants, and also concerning children wandering about in the streets, or public places of any city or town, having no lawful occupation or business, not attending school, and growing up in ignorance, between the ages of seven and sixteen years; and also to make all such by-laws respecting such children as shall be deemed most conducive to their welfare, and the good order of such city or town: . . . . *Provided*, that said by-laws shall be approved by the Superior Court sitting in any county in the Commonwealth."

We would also direct the special attention of parents to the subject of attendance. There are some, we know, who have not sufficient control over their children to compel their attendance at school. There are many others, we regret to say, who often allow their children to remain at home for trivial reasons. The legal right they have to keep their children at home, does not lessen the moral obligation that rests upon them to give their children all the advantages of education which the public



schools afford. We will not argue the subject; let those most interested draw their own conclusions as to their duties in relation to it. So far as the evils occasioned by absences and tardinesses are allowed to continue, so far will our schools fail of the results they are designed to secure.

*The Committee recommend* that the sum of seven thousand four hundred and ninety-five dollars be appropriated by the Town for teachers' wages, fuel, and incidental expenses of the schools for the ensuing year.

Respectfully, in behalf of the School Committee,

CHARLES NOYES, *Chairman.*

CHARLES NOYES,	} <i>School Committee.</i>
J. P. C. WINSHIP,	
RALPH H. BOWLES.	



# COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

IN

## HIGH SCHOOL.

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### FOURTH CLASS.—First Year.

*Arithmetic.* — Emerson's Third Part (finished).

*History of U. S.* — Quackenbos's (finished).

*Book Keeping, Double Entry.* — Mayhew's System.

*English Grammar.* — (S. S. Green's Parsing and Analysis.)

### THIRD CLASS.—Second Year.

*Algebra.* — Sherwin's Elementary.

*General History.* — (Worcester's Introductory — Feudal System, Crusades, England, France.

*Natural Philosophy.* — Quackenbos's.

*French.* — Robertsonian System; Earnst's Series; Modern Publication.

### SECOND CLASS.—Third Year.

*Geometry.* — Introduction to Geometry, and Science of Form.

*General History, Ancient.* — Worcester's.

*Physiology.*

*Zoölogy.* — Ware and Smellie's Philosophy of Natural History.

*Botany.* — Gray's How Plants Grow.

*French.* — Continuation of Second Year's Course of Study.



**FIRST CLASS. — Fourth Year.**

*Mathematics.* — Special Course.

*Rhetoric.* — Quackenbos's.

*Chemistry.*

*Astronomy.*

*French.* — Continuation of Third Year's Course of Study.

*Constitution of the United States.* — Sheppard's Text-book.

**CLASSICAL COURSE.\***

*First Year.* — Latin Grammar, Andrews' and Stoddard's; Latin Reader, Andrews'.

*Second Year.* — Cæsar, Andrews'; Greek Grammar, Sophocles; Greek Lessons, Sophocles.

*Third Year.* — Virgil; Anabasis, Crosby's.

*Fourth Year.* — Cicero, Folsom's; Iliad (three books); Ancient Geography.

**GENERAL EXERCISES.**

*First Year.* — Writing; Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writing Books.

*Through the Course.* — Reading, Spelling, Composition, and Declamation.

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\* The Classical Course is entirely optional; what branches of study those pursuing it may give up, must be determined by the circumstances of each scholar.



# CALENDAR.

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## THE SCHOOL YEAR, 1863-64

Begins — 1863, Last Monday (23d day) in February.

1. *Winter Vacation* — One Week.

2. *The Spring and Summer Term* — Twenty-one Weeks.

Begins — 1863, First Monday (2d day) in March.

[*Recess*: One week — Fourth Monday (25th day) in May  
to First Monday (1st day) in June.]

Ends — 1863, Last Monday (27th day) in July.

3. *The Summer Vacation* — Five Weeks.

Begins — 1863, Fourth Monday (27th day) in July.

Ends — 1863, Last Monday (31st day) in August.

4. *The Autumn Term* — Twelve Weeks.

Begins — 1863, Last Monday (31st day) in August.

Ends — 1863, Fourth Monday (23d day) in November.

5. *The Autumn Vacation* — One Week.

Begins — 1863, Fourth Monday (23d day) in November.

Ends — 1863, Last Monday (30th day) in November.

6. *The Winter Term* —

Begins — 1863, Last Monday (30th day) in November,

Ends — Last Monday (31st day) in January, 1864.

*Notice.* The school year for 1863-64, will close on the last Monday in November, one month earlier than in former years. This will explain the shortness of the Winter Term, as given in the above Calendar.



## HOLIDAYS.

The following days are prescribed holidays :

All Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

New-Year's Day.

Washington's Birthday.

Fast Day.

May Day.

June 17th.

Independence Day.

Harvard College Commencement Day (For High School only).

Thanksgiving.

Christmas.

## TRUANT LAWS.

In Town Meeting, 9th of March, 1863, the following By-laws concerning truant children and absentees were adopted, subject to the approval of the Superior Court.

### BY-LAWS OF THE TOWN OF BRIGHTON \*

CONCERNING TRUANT CHILDREN AND ABSENTEES FROM SCHOOL,  
ADOPTED MARCH 9th, 1863.

SECTION 1. The Town of Brighton hereby adopts the provisions of the forty-second chapter of the General Statutes of this Commonwealth, and all provisions of the two hundred and seventh chapter of the acts of 1862, entitled "An Act concerning truant children and absentees from school," and the several acts in addition thereto, or in amendment thereof, so far as applicable to children and absentees from school between the ages of seven and sixteen years, wandering about in the streets, or public places of the town, having no lawful occupation or business, not attending school, and growing up in ignorance.

\* These By-laws have, since their adoption, been submitted to, and approved by, the Superior Court.



SECTION 2. Any person convicted of any offence described in said acts or either of them, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding twenty dollars, or by confinement in any institution, house of reformation, or suitable situation provided for the purpose, for a term not exceeding two years.

SECTION 3. The selectmen of the town shall provide a suitable lock-up, or house of reformation, or other suitable place in the Poor-house belonging to said town, or in some other place in the town of Brighton, or in the county of Middlesex, which shall be assigned and used for the confinement of persons convicted and sentenced to confinement under said acts.

SECTION 4. Three truant officers shall be annually chosen in the town of Brighton at its annual meeting in March, to serve for one year, whose duty it shall be to make complaints of all persons who have violated any provisions of the acts aforesaid, or either of them, and to aid the School Committee, by all lawful means, in suppressing truancy and enforcing the laws in relation to the attendance of children at school.

SECTION 5. The selectmen of the town shall fix the compensation of such truant officers for their service, at such sum as they shall think just, and the sum shall be paid from the treasury of the town.

SECTION 6. It shall be the duty of the School Committee, and of the teachers of the public schools in said town, to report the names of each and every person violating any or either of said acts, to the truant officers of the town, that they may be complained of therefor.

SECTION 7. If the parent or guardian of any person against whom complaint has been made, under the preceding By-laws, shall, before judgment, give to the School Committee satisfactory assurances or pledges, that such offence shall not be repeated, they may, at their discretion, direct the proceedings on such complaint, to be suspended for a period not exceeding three months; and if, during the time of such suspension, there be no repetition of the offence by the party against whom the proceedings are instituted, they may direct such complaint to be discharged, and all further proceedings thereon to be forever staid.



BRIGHTON, March 9, 1863.

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Brighton, held this day, it was

*Voted*, — To raise and appropriate

for School Teachers, . . .	\$6,295.00
“ Fuel for Schools, . . .	700.00
“ Incidentals for Schools, . . .	600.00

*Voted*, — That the School Committee be authorized to advertise for proposals for furnishing the schools with fuel, the ensuing year.

*Voted*, — That three persons be chosen by nomination at large to act as the Truant officers provided for in the By-laws, in case said By-laws shall be approved by the Superior Court.

*Voted*, — For three Truant officers, and Benjamin Fobes, Willard A. Harrington, and Mark Greenleaf were chosen.

Attest:

W. W. WARREN, *Town Clerk*.

### FINANCES.\*

Appropriation for the support of Schools, 1862-63,	\$5,900.00
Fuel for Schools, . . . . .	500.00
Incidentals for Schools, . . . . .	600.00
From State School Fund, . . . . .	145.96
Total Amount, . . . . .	<u>\$7,145.96</u>

Expenditures during the year ending March 1, 1863, as per bills approved by the Committee.

For Salaries of Teachers, . . .	\$5,882.00
“ Fuel, . . . . .	707.00
“ Incidental Expenses, . . .	504.01
Total amount expended, . . .	<u>\$7,093.01</u>
Amount unexpended, . . .	\$52.95

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\* This financial statement will be found to differ from the Treasurer's Report. The latter includes in the incidental expenses for the past year ninety-three dollars and eighty-eight cents expended for apparatus for High School, which should be charged to the appropriation for that purpose made in 1860.



# STATISTICAL TABLE.

SCHOOL.	SPRING AND SUMMER TERM.				FALL TERM.				WINTER TERM.				THE WHOLE YEAR.				Per Cent. of Attend.
	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Exam.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Exam.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Exam.	Average Attendance.	Average Registered.	Average Belonging at Close.	Average at Exam.	Average Attendance.	
High School,	72	46	46	56	45	44	43	40	44	44	41	39	53	45	43	48	.90
Bennett Gram., 1st Dep.,	49	40	38	38	35	35	33	32	38	37	36	34	41	37	36	34	.82
“ “ 2d “	50	46	41	39	45	45	41	38	47	46	No Ex.	41	47	46	41	39	.83
“ “ 3d “	57	49	45	43	47	46	42	41	49	45	45	41	51	47	44	42	.80
All Departments,	156	135	124	120	127	126	116	111	134	128	81	116	139	130	121	115	.82
Harvard Grammar,	85	56	56	65	75	66	63	60	83	76	71	65	81	66	63	63	.78
Primary I.,	93	81	76	66	96	83	74	74	90	84	81	71	93	83	77	70	.75
“ II.,	95	88	86	71	111	104	99	92	107	103	99	90	104	98	95	84	.80
“ III.,	55	46	44	39	52	52	48	45	56	54	47	45	54	51	46	43	.80
“ IV.,	119	112	98	84	115	112	97	94	114	112	98	99	113	112	98	92	.84
“ V.,	100	80	88	59	86	83	77	68	82	78	70	61	89	80	72	63	.70
“ VI.,	61	54	51	43	55	51	51	43	53	51	48	42	56	52	50	43	.77
9 Schools,	836	698	669	603	762	721	668	627	763	730	636	628	782	717	665	621	.79+



TWENTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

186<sup>3</sup>~~4~~ - <sup>4</sup>~~5~~.

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BOSTON :

PRINTED BY CHARLES H. CROSBY,

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1864.







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# REPORT.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON :

The School Committee respectfully submit their Twenty-sixth Annual Report.

## TIME OF RENDERING REPORT.

By a vote of the Town at the last Annual Meeting, we are required henceforth to render our Report to the Auditors on or before the fifth day of February in each year, and to have the same printed and distributed with the notifications for the March meeting. It will be seen, therefore, that this year, we must complete our Report before the closing Examinations of the Schools, which occur in February. The Statistics have been made up to Jan. 1st, 1864, as will be seen by a reference to the Table which concludes this Report. This fact will account for any lack of completeness that may be discovered in the document. To conform to this arrangement, your Committee have voted that the school year, instead of commencing in March, as heretofore, shall commence at the beginning of the Fall Term; and the salary of all the Teachers shall be paid quarterly, beginning with the first day of February in each year. An important advantage of this arrangement is, that the High School year will thus be made to conform to the Collegiate year.



## SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

One member's term of service expires in March. Another, Rev. Charles Noyes, who was re-appointed for three years, at the last March meeting, will have resigned by the time this Report is in your hands. The remaining members of the Board, cannot refrain from expressing their profound regret, that a failure of health compels this step. The constant and intelligent interest he has taken in the Schools, and the efficient aid he has rendered the Committee, and the service he has rendered the Town, make his withdrawal, at this time, a public loss. The year has brought an unusual amount of labor upon your Committee; and a part of their work has been so delicate and responsible, as to employ a large portion of their time and attention, and involve no little anxiety. Among these extra labors, provision for the change, or protracted illness of Teachers, holds a prominent place. In the discharge of these duties, your Committee have endeavored to act always with impartiality, and according to what, in their united judgment, would best subserve the interests of the Schools committed to their care. They have labored together, not only harmoniously, but under a serious sense of the responsibility involved, in directing and furthering the moral and intellectual culture of the interesting bands of children, gathered in the various Schools of the Town. And though the results are far from what they hoped to have seen accomplished, they trust they have not labored wholly in vain.

## SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The School-Houses of the Town are commodious, and in very good repair. To this, however, there are some exceptions. The house at present occupied by Primary School No. 6, is no longer comfortable. Old and dilapidated, it would not pay for



repairs ; it is, moreover, altogether too small to accommodate the number of scholars in the District, and it is inconvenient and antiquated in all its internal arrangements. There is an immediate and imperative necessity, that its place should be supplied by a new house ; and the Committee are unanimous in the opinion, that the time has fully come for the Town to remove this last one of their old school-houses, and erect a building corresponding to those in every other District.

The Harvard Grammar School, likewise, needs a suitable out-building. The morals and health of the large number of scholars attending here, require something beyond its present very rough and frail structure. It is found, too, that in some of the buildings, the furnaces are not sufficient to comfortably warm the rooms on severely cold days. This is especially the case with the High School building. The furnace in this building is old ; and it is the opinion of good judges, that it cannot be made to warm the two rooms. In the spring of the year the cellar of this building has been repeatedly flooded with water, to such an extent as to extinguish the fires in the furnace, and consequently to compel the Teachers to dismiss the School. A suitable drain must be constructed to prevent the recurrence of this difficulty.

For these purposes some extra appropriation may, this year, be required.

Several of our school-houses are furnished with double desks ; the remainder with single desks. In their visits to the schools, the Committee have noticed that the scholars are very much more quiet in those rooms where there are single, than they are in those rooms where there are double desks. Seating two scholars side by side, in a proximity so close as to touch one another, is an almost irresistible temptation to whispering, and other forms of communication, which are destructive of order and studiousness. There can be little, if any doubt, that double the labor of the same Teacher could not effect one-half the



quiet order and faithful study in a school thus seated, which he or she could effect in one where each scholar is seated at a single desk, and separated from all his school-fellows by an intervening space. The improvement in the schools would more than compensate the expense of furnishing all our school-rooms with this improvement. The Committee, on this point, invite instructions from the Town.

### HOURS OF SCHOOL SESSIONS.

Last year the Committee yielded to a petition, from a very large number of the parents and guardians of the scholars in the High School, and changed the then existing arrangement to one session a day, commencing at 9 A. M., and continuing until 2 P. M. It was urged that many had so great a distance to walk, and the roads were often in such a wet and muddy condition, as to render the going and returning from two sessions, not only wearisome and uncomfortable, but likewise, especially in the case of the misses, an exposure detrimental to health. After this change had been made in the High School, it was urged that the same reasons existed for its adoption in the Grammar Schools; and with the almost unanimous consent of the parents, it was adopted in the Harvard Grammar School, at about the beginning of the Fall Term. The progress of the scholars in their studies since the one session has been inaugurated, has equalled, in some points exceeded, their progress under the old arrangement; and several considerations might be urged for its continuance. But it is not without objections. It does not meet the wants and wishes of all. And it may well be questioned whether any arrangement will just suit every case that may arise. After mature deliberation, the Committee have voted that there shall be two sessions each day in all the schools, except the High School.



## TEACHERS.

There have been several changes of Teachers during the year. Miss Sallie<sup>XX</sup> Dudley, of Primary No. 6, has been succeeded by Miss Mary E. Wellman; and Miss Wellman in turn has been succeeded in her position of Assistant in Primary No. 4, by Miss Mary E. Nutting, who, after a few weeks' service, was succeeded by Miss Frances Farnham, who at present fills that place. In the Harvard Grammar School, there has been a change of Assistants, Miss Mary F. Child having succeeded Miss Sophia E. Baldwin. Mr. Solomon A. Poor, of the Bennett Grammar School, having been ill since the commencement of the Fall Term, has been assisted successively, by Mr. H. H. Currier and Mr. George R. Bradford.

On account of the illness of the Principal, Mr. William F. Eastwood was employed to teach the High School for four weeks during the Summer Term.

Mr. W. H. Merritt<sup>H. U. 1858</sup> has succeeded Mr. Lucius H. Buckingham, as Principal of the High School.

One Teacher has been added during the year; the number of scholars in Primary No. 5, being so large as to require an Assistant; and this position has been filled by Miss Anna L. Kingsley.

## STATE OF THE SCHOOLS.

One commendable feature of last year's Report was the Table, by which the statistics were gathered into a form so concise, as to present them together at one view. Availing ourselves of this convenient arrangement, we have appended a like Table to this Report, and refer the reader to it for statistical information. It will be observed that the statistics are made up to January 1st, 1864, the latest period practicable to collate them for this Report.



From a general view of the Schools, their state, if not entirely satisfactory, may be regarded as healthy and progressive; that no private school of any grade is sustained or demanded here, and that so few are sent abroad for instruction, are facts highly commendatory of the efficiency of our own common schools.

## ATTENDANCE.

It will be perceived, by a reference to the Statistical Table, that the average attendance of the scholars at their several schools during this year has been 76 per cent. Last year it was 79 per cent. For the year '61-2, it was, as this year, 76 per cent. But one arrest has been made by the Truant Officers; and we incline to the opinion, that other causes besides truancy, operate to keep the percentage of attendance lower than it should be. A few extreme cases excepted, the responsibility of the scholar's regular attendance rests upon the parent.

A copy of the Truant Laws may be found in the Report for last year.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The number of children in Town between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the first day of May last, by the Assessors according to law, was 729. Boys—399. Girls—330. That the whole number registered in the schools sometimes exceeds this, is explained by removals from one District to another in Term time, and by the fact that some under, and some over the specified ages attend. Scholars attending the full course at the High School will generally be over fifteen years old.



# PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

## DISTRICT No. 1.

*Principal,* MISS ROSA A. ROBERTS.

*Assistant,* " MARY B. MONTGOMERY.

In describing the present condition of this school, no language can be more just and appropriate than the following, with which the Committee closed their last year's Report of it.

"We regard this school, under its present management, as second to none in the Town, in the advantages and facilities it affords for the education of the young. It has never, since our acquaintance with it, been in a more prosperous condition than at the present time."

This school has fully sustained this Report of last year through the present. The progress it has made in Reading and Spelling,—the most important branches of Primary School instruction,—has given the Committee great satisfaction. Nor can less be said of the recitations in other studies. The Teacher, possessed of a natural gift to teach,—born a Teacher,—is enabled to awaken the youngest or the most stupid pupil, to understand and to feel, an interest in every lesson.

Her hearty interest in her work and in her pupils, irresistibly draws their affections to her, and to the school-room where she presides.

No amount of severity or corporeal chastisement could produce the cheerful obedience to rules of order, and faithfulness to lessons, that are secured by this love and esteem of the scholars for their Teacher.

The Calisthenic exercises in this school are likewise worthy of notice. They are performed with a life and precision worthy of imitation. They are introduced at such intervals, as relieve the young children from the weariness of being confined to one position,—contribute to the health,—and relieve the school-room of what, to children, is one of its most irksome



features,—the requisition to sit still for hours together. The examinations of this school have been a success. In the experience of the year, it has been found likewise that the Assistant Teacher, Miss Mary B. Monto, was well adapted to her sphere; and the results of her patient and judicious labors, are satisfactorily apparent.

At some periods of the year, the school has been so crowded that there were more scholars than seats.

#### DISTRICT No. 2.

*Principal,*

MISS SARAH F. JONES.

*Assistant, 2d Department, “* HARRIET A. HENDERSON.

The division of this school into two departments occupying different rooms, has proved itself eminently wise and judicious. The separation of the youngest scholars, from those who were older and more advanced, has proved beneficial to both. It has likewise relieved the school from the discomfort of its previous overcrowded state. The Assistant, Miss Harriet A. Henderson, has proved herself well qualified for her position. She has continued to secure the confidence and affection of her youthful charge, and made them happy and cheerful, while she has gently and successfully led them through the dry drill of learning's initiatory steps.

The Principal, Miss SARAH F. JONES, is an earnest, well qualified Teacher, and has evidently labored faithfully to sustain the school at a high standard. If the examinations have fallen below those of former years, it may be accounted for, in part, by the changes wrought in the going out of classes to the Grammar School, and the coming of new scholars. The want of perfect order may result in a great measure from the imperfect arrangements of the room. As the Committee had no special appropriation for furnishing this room, they fitted it up with the old desks belonging to the Town, and stored in the basement of the Town Hall. If the room were furnished with



single desks, and each scholar seated by himself, the improvement in the order of the room would no doubt become apparent. There has been good progress made in reading, but it is feared that the spelling does not reach so high a standard as is desirable. After the Annual Examination, a more complete and a more just estimate of this school's progress may be formed, than we are able at present to reach.

### DISTRICT No. 3.

*Teacher*, Miss ELLEN HARRIS.

No very extended report of this school is needed. It has continued to exhibit those excellences in its discipline and acquirements which have heretofore secured the hearty commendations of the Committee. But the hourly toil and thought,—the patient drill,—which, through the weeks and months of the year, have brought and kept this school up to its position of excellence, cannot be measured by the number of words it takes to enumerate them, nor by the brief space the mention of their results occupies in this Report.

The quiet and order of the scholars, the ready and correct replies, to all proper and reasonable questions on the portion of any study they have pursued, a general spirit of honorable pride to appear well in every exercise, are the evidences and commendation of the teacher's faithfulness and efficiency.

### DISTRICT No. 4.

<i>Principal</i> ,	Miss ELIZA HARRIS.
<i>Assistants</i> , (successively)	“ MARY E. WELLMAN.
	“ MARY E. NUTTING.
	“ FRANCES FARNHAM.

Miss Mary E. Wellman, who, in the discharge of her duties as Assistant in this school had given full proof of her ability to teach, was, by the unanimous wish of the Committee, transferred



to be the principal of another of our Primary Schools. She was succeeded in her office by Miss Mary E. Nutting, who, after continuing for only a few weeks, was tempted away by a more congenial situation, and larger remuneration. She has been succeeded by Miss Frances Farnham, an experienced Teacher. There is no one of our schools beset with more obstacles, or involving more difficulties, than this. The hope for the prosperity of the school, by the removal to the Grammar School of some of the most ungovernable of the boys, has been but partially realized, because their places have been supplied by others of a similar character. This very large room is furnished with double desks,—which augments the difficulties of keeping it quiet. If the deportment and recitations in this school are not of the highest order, it is just to remember the embarrassments under which it labors. The school needs superior tact, the most vigorous and judicious discipline, and much earnest, well-directed labor, to bring it to the level of our other Primary Schools; and the Committee regret, that the improvement for which they hoped at the beginning of the school year, has not been realized.

#### DISTRICT No. 5.

*Principal*, Miss MARY L. KINGSLEY.

*Assistant*, “ ANNA L. KINGSLEY.

We are able to report that this school has improved during the year. The benefit of the services of an assistant, is pleasingly apparent, in the correctness and promptness of the recitations. It gives us pleasure to speak of the advance which has been made in reading and spelling. At the last examination, the intonations of voice in reading were natural, the scholars were familiar with punctuation, and gave promise of making good readers. One class of eighteen members spelled three rounds without an error, although the words were taken promiscuously from the portion they had been over. And several



scholars spelled in succession a number of words without a mistake. The classes in Colburn were not accurate in phraseology ; but the recitations in Geography were very good. The singing, and other general exercises of the school, were conducted with spirit and vivacity. The quiet manner in which the scholars left and re-entered the room before and after recess, also attracted our commendatory notice.

The attendance during the Summer Term was diminished four per cent. by the prevalence of sickness. But, notwithstanding this interruption, the results presented at the close of the Term were very satisfactory.

#### DISTRICT No. 6.

*Teachers*, (successively) Miss SALLIE DUDLEY.

“ MARY E. WELLMAN.

A change of Teachers has occurred in this school during the year. Miss Sallie Dudley, who had successfully taught the school from March, 1862, felt constrained to resign her position, at the close of the Summer Term. This resignation was much regretted, because Miss Dudley had secured the confidence of the parents, the affection and esteem of the pupils, and the school had never been in so good a condition before during our acquaintance with it. As an evidence of the attainments of the scholars, we may state, that at the examination at the close of the Summer Term, one hundred and eighty words were spelled, and only *eleven* of the whole number mis-spelled. Of these words one class spelled thirty without a single mistake, and another class of nine members spelled ninety words, of which but five were missed. And with the exception of the girls, in the first class of Colburn's Mental Arithmetic, the other recitations of the school were equally deserving of praise.

The apprehensions of detriment to the school from a change of Teachers at this time, and under these circumstances, have fortunately not been realized. Not willing to commit a school in



such a state to the hands of a stranger, the Committee placed it in the charge of Miss Wellman, who, as Assistant in another of our Primary Schools, had proved herself an efficient Teacher. Under her faithful care and judicious management, it appeared at the last examination that the school had sustained its previous reputation. The spelling was equal to that of the previous examination; and some of the scholars, who had been supposed to have a natural defect of speech, read with a clearness of enunciation the Committee had never expected they would attain. The recitations of the first class in Colburn, demonstrated the Teacher's patient and thorough instruction. We are happy to say that the school is in a satisfactory state of progress; and this is worthy of more commendation, because the school has been conducted under many discomforts and inconveniences. It has been little better than a punishment for the Teacher and her pupils to remain six hours a day, through autumn's winds and winter's cold, in a small, ill-arranged, dilapidated and uncomfortable school-room. For a portion of the time the number in attendance was larger than the number of desks, and several scholars were compelled to occupy settees, crowded on the Teacher's platform. The Committee are of the opinion that a new school-house for this District is an immediate and an imperative necessity; and they would respectfully but earnestly call the attention of the Town to the need of supplying such enlarged, and more convenient school accommodations, for the inhabitants of this District, as their just and legal claims require.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Principal*, Mr. GUILDFORD D. BIGELOW.

*Assistant*, Miss MARY F. CHILD.

The two examinations which have been held in this school during the year, have presented very satisfactory results. The



classes which have recited to the Principal continue to show the beneficial effects of that thorough drill, which is a chief and commendable feature in his manner of instruction. If any scholar leaves this school without a knowledge of the studies pursued, it will not be because the Teacher has been unfaithful to him. It is not easy for the pupil to escape the impression that he *must* have his lesson; and of necessity he is drawn or driven to diligent habits of study. A degree of healthful emulation to excel on the part of some of the scholars, begins to appear, and promises good results. To foster this, the opportunity has been given to those who were willing to perform the extra study, to be promoted to the class above them; and several have gladly availed themselves of the privilege, and are now creditably sustaining their promotion.

The question of what are the best modes of discipline for this school, has continued to engage the attention of the Committee and the Principal, between whom several friendly conferences on the subject have been held. Some experiments are now being tried, and their results remain yet to be seen. It should be always remembered, that when a portion of the scholars can be governed only by a strict and rigid discipline, this regimen must be applied alike to all. No rules of deportment, no requisitions of order or study, no penalties for transgression, can be enforced and inflicted upon one scholar and not upon another, under like circumstances, without serious detriment to the Teacher's moral influence, and the best interests of the school. The wide difference in the characters of the scholars in this school, makes its discipline, practically, a matter of no little difficulty; and it may safely be questioned whether any teacher could maintain better order, and secure more desirable results, than the present teacher does, out of such dissimilar elements. Some of the scholars are among the best behaved children in our Town; if others are not the very reverse of this, they are such as will be curbed only by vigilant watching and severe restraints. We hope, however, that at no distant day the school may be



governed mainly, if not wholly, by an appeal to the moral sense.

The present year is the first period since our acquaintance with the school, that the classes under the Assistant have compared favorably with those under the Principal. The examinations of the classes in this department have shown an improvement almost surprising. The recitations in Colburn's Arithmetic, have not been surpassed by any school in Town; and the Committee have only words of praise and commendation for the Assistant, who has labored for, and won, success.

#### BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

<i>Principal and Teacher,</i>	1st Department, Mr. SOLOMON A. POOR.
<i>Assistant,</i>	2d Department, Miss SARAH E. WAUGH.
<i>Assistant,</i>	3d Department, Miss SARAH E. GILMAN.

1st Department, Mr. SOLOMON A. POOR, Teacher.

The Committee regard those scholars as fortunate who pursue their studies under this Instructor. His school continues to maintain the honorable reputation it has justly earned. The recitations in Arithmetic, at the Summer Examination, were accurate and prompt; the pupils being able to state the principles involved in the phraseology of the books, or in their own language, and to perform the examples in the text, or those given them at the moment. The other recitations were deserving of equal praise. Attention has been given to Declamation. In this exercise the pupils have been excelled by no school in Town.

It would extend our remarks too far to specify all the particulars and modes of instruction which have gratified the Committee, in their visits to this school. But we may be allowed to add, that the cheerful countenances of the pupils,—the promptness and politeness with which they answer our questions,—the lively interest they manifest in all their exercises,—and the



frank confidence with which, at proper times, they approach and converse with their teacher, speak well for his head and his heart, and show how pleasant and profitable are the relations between him and them.

Near the close of the Summer Term, Mr. Poor was prostrated by a severe attack of illness, which has been protracted to a recent date. During the Fall Term, Mr. H. H. Currier was employed to assist him. Under his instructions the school retrograded but slightly, if any. The examination at the close presented very gratifying results. During the present Term, a Teacher of high qualifications, and eminently successful hitherto,—Mr. George R. Bradford,—has been employed to assist the Principal, and has discharged his duties to our entire satisfaction. His manner of conducting a recitation, his power to fix the attention and awaken the interest of his classes, his tact at imparting knowledge, and making the subject in hand clear to the comprehension of all, are worthy of especial commendation. We regard him as a superior Instructor.

The Principal has partially resumed his duties this Term, and confidently hopes to be able to take the entire charge of the school in March.

2d Department. Miss SARAH E. WAUGH, Teacher.

We never come away from a visit to this school disappointed. There is something inexplicable in the calm, silent influence of this teacher, which binds all her scholars to a cheerful obedience, and a scrupulous discharge of duty, without other persuasion or compulsion. She has faithfully and patiently toiled on through another year; and we have no hesitation in saying, that the Annual Examination, like the preceding ones, of the year, will reflect upon her additional honor.



3d Department, Miss SARAH E. GILMAN, Teacher.

This department compares favorably with the other two. The deportment is good. The reading and spelling excellent. The recitations in all other branches, bear witness to the teacher's faithfulness and efficiency. We have found abundant reason to say that the teacher and the school, have sustained their previous high reputation.

## HIGH SCHOOL.

*Principal*, Mr. W. H. MERRITT.

*Assistant*, Miss ANNA J. GEORGE.

Our High School, this year, has been interrupted and hindered in its work, from a variety of causes. The cellar of the building in which it is held, because not properly drained, has been flooded with water, to such an extent as to extinguish the fire of the furnaces, and interrupt the school for days together. At other times the furnace has failed to heat the room sufficiently for the pupils to remain in it with comfort, or safety to health; and on this account the school has been some days omitted. Mr. Buckingham, whose term of service expired at the close of the Summer Term, was taken ill several weeks before that time was reached. Supposing at first that his illness would be only temporary, the school was first dismissed a week, and then another. As the Principal was not then able to resume his duties, a Teacher was hired to take charge of the school for a week, or until such time as the Principal should recover. Under this temporary arrangement, it was not to be expected that either Teacher or scholars would feel a great degree of earnestness in their duties; and as, by the protracted illness of the Principal, it continued through the remainder of the Term, it was painfully evident that the school was not prepared for an examination, and none was held.



After a wearisome hearing of the claims of a host of applicants, and after much thought, and many protracted consultations, the Committee finally elected, for Principal of the High School, Mr. W. H. MERRITT, a Graduate of Harvard University, having had several years experience as a Teacher, and bearing the most flattering testimonials from high and reliable sources.

He entered upon his duties at the opening of the Fall Term, and the school has improved under his administration. It is due to him, however, to state, that a sufficient time has not yet elapsed to fully test his system of instruction. The Committee reserve the expression of their judgment until after the Annual Examination, when the results will be more fully and more clearly apparent. So far as their judgment is at present formed, it is favorable.

The Assistant, Miss George, greatly to the satisfaction of the Committee, has continued in her position, and performed her duties with scrupulous fidelity and success. Her perfect acquaintance with the branches she teaches, both as laid down in old and new text books, and her dignified manners, are worthy of mention. The Committee feel it due to her to state, that they have been much gratified with the recitations they have attended in her room; especially with some in History and Grammar. We hope that the superior abilities to impart instruction which she has gained by her long experience, and constant study, may be secured to us for many years to come.

In the Report of last year, the Committee remark, "Our fellow-citizens rightly look to their Committee, and the Teachers appointed by them, to bring their High School to a state of great efficiency; and expect that, under their care, it will realize the expectations they entertain respecting it."

This is just. But we beg that it be remembered that no Committee, however wise and laborious, and no Teacher, however well qualified, can accomplish this desirable end without the



co-operation of the public, especially of the parents and guardians whose children attend the school. This seems the proper place to say, that the school has this year been greatly retarded and hindered, by the frequency with which a number of scholars have been called from the school before the close of the session, by written requests from the parents. These the Teacher cannot well refuse. But scholars who are thus excused once or twice every week, must be possessed of extraordinary abilities or industry, if they do not fall behind their classes, and hinder and drag others after them. If this is continued to as great an extent as it prevails at present, no sanguine hopes of brilliant success can be entertained. Our earnest appeal is to parents to cure the evil.

The school generally lacks a spirit of healthy emulation; and the Committee submit it to the consideration of the citizens, whether the example of neighboring cities and towns, of offering prizes, for attainments in scholarship, might not be adopted by us, not only with present benefit to the school, but with great advantage to succeeding generations. A fund sufficient for a scholarship in Harvard University, to be conferred on the scholar who should be the first of his class, in the studies preparatory for College, easily raised by subscription, might awaken the aspiration of many a youthful mind, and raise up bright ornaments for the Town, and distinguished blessings for the nation and the world. A smaller contribution, for medal scholars, would undoubtedly awaken the enthusiasm of the pupils, and give a healthful impetus to the school. The Committee regret to say that they are not aware of a single member of the school, at present, fitting for College.



## APPROPRIATIONS.

The Committee recommend that the sum of Seventy-eight Hundred Dollars be appropriated by the Town for Teachers' Wages, Fuel, and Incidental Expenses of the Schools for the ensuing year.

Respectfully, in behalf of the School Committee,

RALPH H. BOWLES, *Chairman.*

RALPH H. BOWLES, CHARLES NOYES, J. P. C. WINSHIP,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
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## COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

IN

## HIGH SCHOOL.

## FOURTH CLASS.—First Year.

*Arithmetic*.—Emerson's Third Part (finished).

*History of U. S.*—Quackenbos's (finished).

*Book Keeping, Double Entry*.—Mayhew's system.

*English Grammar*.—(S. S. Green's Parsing and Analysis.)

## THIRD CLASS.—Second Year.

*Algebra*.—Sherwin's Elementary.

*General History*.—(Worcester's Introductory—Feudal System, Crusades, England, France.

*Natural Philosophy*.—Quackenbos's.

*French*.—Robertsonian System; Earnst's Series; Modern Publication.

## SECOND CLASS.—Third Year.

*Geometry*.—Introduction to Geometry, and Science of Form.

*General History, Ancient*.—Worcester's.

*Physiology*.

*Zoology*.—Ware and Smellie's Philosophy of Natural History.

*Botany*.—Gray's How Plants Grow.

*French*.—Continuation of Second Year's Course of Study.



### FIRST CLASS.—Fourth Year.

*Mathematics*.—Special Course.

*Rhetoric*.—Quackenbos's.

*Chemistry*.

*Astronomy*.

*French*.—Continuation of Third Year's Course of Study.

*Constitution of the United States*.—Sheppard's Text-book.

### CLASSICAL COURSE.\*

*First Year*.—Latin Grammar, Andrews' and Stoddard's; Latin Reader, Andrews'.

*Second Year*.—Cæsar, Andrews'; Greek Grammar, Sophocles; Greek Lessons, Sophocles.

*Third Year*.—Virgil; Anabasis, Crosby's.

*Fourth Year*.—Cicero, Folsom's; Iliad (three books); Ancient Geography.

### GENERAL EXERCISES.

*First Year*.—Writing; Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writing Books.

*Through the Course*.—Reading, Spelling, Composition, and Declamation.

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\* The Classical Course is entirely optional; what branches of study those pursuing it may give up, must be determined by the circumstances of each scholar.



# CALENDAR.

## THE SCHOOL YEAR 1864-5.

Ends—1864, First Monday (1st day) in August.

Begins—1864, First Monday (5th day) in September.

1. *Spring and Summer Term*—Twenty-one Weeks.

Begins—1864, First Monday (7th day) in March.

[*Recess*: One week—Fifth Monday (30th day) in May,  
to First Monday (6th day) in June.]

Ends—1864, First Monday (1st day) in August.

2. *The Summer Vacation*—Five Weeks.

Begins—1864, First Monday (1st day) in August.

Ends—1864, First Monday (5th day) in September.

3. *The Autumn Term*—Twelve Weeks.

Begins—1864, First Monday (5th day) in September.

Ends—1864, Last Monday (28th day) in November.

4. *The Autumn Vacation*—One Week.

Begins—1864, Last Monday (28th day) in November.

Ends—1864, First Monday (5th day) in December.

5. *The Winter Term*—Twelve Weeks.

Begins—1864, First Monday (5th day) in December.

Ends—1865, Last Monday (27th day) in February.

## HOLIDAYS.

The following days are prescribed holidays :

All Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

New-Year's Day.

Washington's Birthday.

Fast Day.

May Day.

June 17th.

Independence Day.

Harvard College Commencement Day (For High School only).

Thanksgiving.

Christmas.



## EXAMINATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE HIGH SCHOOL.

There will be an Examination of Pupils for the High School, in the High School Room, on Wednesday, March 2d, 1864, at half-past one o'clock, P. M.

There will also be another Examination this year, for admission to the High School, during the Summer Vacation.

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 FINANCE.
 

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Appropriation for the support of schools, 1863-4, .	\$6,295.00
Appropriation for fuel for schools, . . . . .	700.00
Appropriation for incidentals for schools, . . . . .	600.00
Appropriation from State School Fund, . . . . .	149.24
	<hr/>
Total amount, . . . . .	\$7,744.24

*Expenditures during the year, ending February 1st, 1864, as per bill<sup>s</sup> approved by the Committee.*

For salaries of Teachers, . . . . .	\$5,831.91
For fuel, . . . . .	804.25
For incidental expenses, . . . . .	583.37
	<hr/>
Total amount, . . . . .	\$7,219.53

Amount unexpended, . . . . .	524.71
Amount unexpended in 1863, . . . . .	52.95
	<hr/>
Total amount unexpended, . . . . .	\$577.66

As, by vote of the Town, the financial year closed one month earlier than heretofore, it will be observed, that expenses for only eleven months, are included in the above statement.



# STATISTICAL TABLE.

SCHOOL.	SPRING AND SUMMER TERM.				FALL TERM.				WINTER TERM.				THE WHOLE YEAR.				Per Cent. of Attendance.
	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Exam.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Exam.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Exam.	Average Attendance.	Aver. Registered.	Average belonging Jan. 1st, 1864.	Average at Exam.	Average attendance.	
High School, .	61	44	No Ex.	43	47	46	38	40	46	46	—	39	51	45	38	41	.84
Bennett Gram., 1st Dep.,	49	38	37	37	37	35	38	32	34	34	—	31	40	35	37	33	.82
“ “ 2d “	52	46	37	39	40	40	37	35	42	42	—	35	44	42	37	36	.80
“ “ 3d “	54	45	44	40	46	45	40	39	48	48	—	38	49	46	42	39	.79
All Departments, .	155	129	118	116	123	120	115	106	124	124	—	104	133	123	116	108	.81
Harvard Grammar,	101	72	70	70	86	77	68	69	83	78	—	68	90	76	69	69	.77
Primary I., .	92	83	81	82	104	99	89	93	94	89	—	69	96	90	85	81	.84
“ II., 1st Dep.,	50	46	42	45	63	63	44	49	64	58	—	49	59	55	43	48	.81
“ II., 2d “	66	58	57	45	73	57	30	54	60	55	—	48	66	57	29	49	.74
Both Departments,	116	104	99	90	136	120	74	103	124	113	—	97	125	112	72	97	.78
Primary II., III.,	62	51	42	36	59	53	42	41	53	51	—	33	58	52	42	37	.66
“ IV.,	96	86	77	73	96	93	80	78	86	85	—	70	92	88	78	73	.79
“ V.,	109	99	74	53	101	90	79	69	94	88	—	72	101	92	76	65	.64
“ VI.,	60	54	45	42	56	44	38	45	55	51	—	46	57	53	41	44	.77
9 Schools, .	852	722	606	607	938	752	623	645	759	725	—	598	804	733	618	633	.76

NOTE. — The fractions have been regarded in the footings, but omitted in the printing. \* Examination to be held in February.



























TWENTY-SEVENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE  
Town of Brighton,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 1, 1865.



BOSTON:  
CHARLES H. CROSBY, PRINTER,  
Nos. 11 & 13 WATER STREET.  
1865.







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# REPORT.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON :

The School Committee respectfully submit their Twenty-seventh Annual Report.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the Town Meeting in March, 1864, Rev. Ralph H. Bowles was elected to serve the Town as School Committee for three years, and Rev. John P. Cushman for two years. Mr. Cushman declined serving; and the citizens, at their April meeting, elected Rev. James Eastwood to fill the vacancy. Mr. Eastwood also declined the service. Subsequently the other members of the Committee, in conjunction with the Selectmen, appointed Mr. Solomon A. Poor. But Mr. Poor had hardly assumed the duties of his office, before he was removed by death. Thus the entire work of the School Committee for the year has devolved upon two of its members. They have given to the constantly recurring and delicate duties of their position, much time and patient thought; and they feel confident that the schools of the town are in a satisfactory and prospering condition, and afford abundant facilities for the education of all the children who reside therein.



## SCHOOL-HOUSES.

A new School-House, 34 by 48 feet, and two stories high, has been erected for Primary No. 6, at a cost of about \$5,500, exclusive of furniture. It was the original intention to have finished both rooms, holding the upper one in reserve for the future growth of the school. But, as it was found that the appropriation was insufficient for this, and the lower room would fully meet the present wants of the school, it was decided to finish only this room, leaving the one in the second story until such time as it should be required. The structure is tasteful, convenient and substantial. Its situation is eligible; it is an ornament to the town, and supplies an imperative need of the school. It is furnished with fifty-six single desks, of an approved style, and supplied with a large extent of black-board surface, affording facilities for drawing, as well as for the ordinary use of black-boards in such a school.

The school occupied this new house for the first time, on Tuesday, January 3, 1865.

The Committee recommend an appropriation for a well in the yard of this school-house, since no water is accessible from it, except at a very inconvenient distance.

We have seven edifices used for school purposes, all of which are substantial and convenient structures, and at present in a good state of repair.

The importance of having school-rooms properly warmed in winter, must be apparent to all. To sit in a room of too low a temperature for six hours in a day, especially after exercise, almost inevitably sows the seeds of consumption or other disease. It has been the special endeavor of your Committee this year to remedy this defect, from which some of our schools have hitherto suffered, to such an extent as to compel the omission of their sessions on severely cold days. And if this defect is not already remedied, the Committee are determined to spare



no pains until it is. At the same time we have been as careful of expense as is consistent with the attainment of this end. And should the expense of warming our school-rooms seem to any to be exorbitant, they should remember that the location and structure of these rooms, necessarily present many obstacles to warming them equally and sufficiently in every part, and that the health of our teachers and pupils must not be sacrificed to any false and narrow economy.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The number of children in Town between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the first day of May last, by the Assessors, according to law, was 782: Boys, 404; girls, 378. Other statistical information may be found in the table appended to this Report.

## HIGH SCHOOL.

*Principal*, Mr. W. H. MERRITT, A. M.  
*Assistant*, Miss ANNA J. GEORGE.

Our High School has pursued its work during the past year with a good degree of success. Some troublesome and uncomfortable elements have eliminated themselves from the membership of this school during the year, and its peace and progress have been very apparent since this has occurred. Both the Principal and Assistant Teacher have performed their duties faithfully, and merited, as they have received, our commendations.

By changing our annual examination from March to July, we have, this year, introduced into the High School two classes, the last of which, had remained in the Grammar Schools six months less time than scholars usually spend there. And though those admitted passed examinations up to the grade ordinarily required, the formation of this class devolves extra



labor upon the teachers. But it is believed that the school will suffer no detriment therefrom, and that the next class that enters, will have a more thorough preparation than those admitted heretofore.

In accordance with the recommendation of last year's Report, one of the Committee offered prizes for the best Compositions and Declamations. The result was, that all the exercises in these departments were of a much higher order than any produced since the present Committee's acquaintance with the school. At the close of the Winter Term, February 26, 1864, prizes were awarded as follows:—

DECLAMATION.—1st prize, Charles E. Sanderson; 2d prize, John Sanderson; 3d prize, A. J. Onderdonk; 4th prize, Z. T. Cushman.

READING.—1st prize, Miss S. F. Boynton; 2d prize, Miss Ellen Lane; 3d prize, Miss B. Sanger; 4th prize, Miss M. C. Hollis.

COMPOSITION.—1st prize, Miss E. Mowry; 2d prize, Miss Sarah P. Morrill; 3d prize, Miss Ellen Lane; 4th prize, Miss M. C. Hollis.

The beneficial effect of presenting these prizes, demonstrates that some provision for their presentation every year would excite such a healthful emulation, as would be of unspeakable advantage to the school. We would therefore again urge the matter upon the attention of our citizens.

The results of the examination at the close of the Summer Term were gratifying and satisfactory. On the whole, we regarded it as much better than those of several past years. In our opinion, all that is now required to make our High School a success, is the right kind of parental co-operation and public interest.



## BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Principal and Teacher, 1st Department, Mr. W. H. KNIGHT.*

*Assistant, 2d Department, Miss Sarah E. WAUGH.*

*Assistant, 3d Department, Miss Sarah E. GILMAN.*

Mr. SOLOMON A. POOR resigned his office as Principal of this school, at the close of the Summer Term. He had been in failing health for several months, and he died at his residence Thanksgiving morning, November 24th, 1864. He was forty-four years old. For nearly nineteen years he served this Town as an instructor of youth, in the leading Grammar School. By an examination of the Annual Reports, we find in each year since Mr. Poor began to teach, highly commendatory notices of him and his school. Through his protracted career he has been an eminently popular and successful teacher, and he will continue to live in the grateful remembrance of hundreds who were privileged to be his pupils. His character and services to the Town are worthy of a more extended notice than the limits of this Report will allow; but there is little need of it, since they are known and appreciated by the community in which he has lived and labored so long and so well. By the removal of such a man, in the prime of life, so eminently qualified for his calling, and ardently devoted to it as he was, the School and the Town have sustained a heavy loss.

Mr. W. H. KNIGHT assumed the duties of Principal of the Bennett Grammar School, at the commencement of the Fall and Winter Term. By the promotion of nearly all the members of the first class to the High School, the first Department was made up almost entirely of new materials from the second. Some of these pupils had been troublesome in their previous course, and had not yet conformed to wholesome discipline, or acquired proper habits of study and behavior. Thus were brought into contact a new teacher and a new school of not altogether homogeneous and promising elements. Moreover,



the different acquirements of the pupils rendered the classification a matter of no little difficulty. These circumstances aggravated the obstacles,—always enough,—to the order and success of a school under a new teacher. Under the circumstances, the progress of the school has been as much as could be reasonably expected. We have been gratified with the introduction of singing and calisthenic exercises, which, under Mr. Knight's excellent management, promises much for the interest and health of the school. It is hoped, that with time, Mr. Knight may be as successful in this school as he has been with others heretofore under his charge. If earnestness and labor can secure success, Mr. Knight will achieve it.

The Assistants in both the other Departments of the school have continued to discharge their duties faithfully, and to the satisfaction of the Committee. Miss Gilman deserves especial praise, for her indefatigable and judicious labors, to bring to order the large number of scholars introduced to her care from the Primaries. They have both surmounted great obstacles to success, by that tact and knowledge of human nature for which they have heretofore been distinguished.

## HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Principal*, Mr. GUILFORD D. BIGELOW.

*Assistant*, Miss MARY F. CHILDS.

It gives us great pleasure to be able to say that this school has, perhaps, never had a more successful and satisfactory year than the past. The examinations have been creditable alike to the teachers and the pupils. The order and deportment is all that could be desired. Commendable progress has been made in declamation and composition. In penmanship and map-drawing this school, we think, may be justly said to excel others. The government is mild, but decided and just. The recitations, particularly those in Arithmetic, manifest a thorough



and patient drill. It is evident that earnest efforts are made to give each scholar an intelligent comprehension of the branches pursued. Both Departments of the school,—that of the Principal and that of the Assistant,—have been conducted with faithfulness, earnestness and zeal. The school numbers among its membership many talented and ambitious pupils; it is under good teachers, and is a good school.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### PRIMARY No. 1.

*Principal*, Miss ROSA A. ROBERTS.

*Assistant*, Miss MARY B. MONTGOMERY.

This school, during the past year, has continued to deserve the high commendations we have bestowed upon it since it has been under its present teachers. As a sample of the spelling of this school, we may state, that some members of the first class spelled forty words selected promiscuously from the portion of the spelling book gone over, without a mistake. Other members made their first mistake only on the twenty-first word, and they were not allowed a second trial, or to correct mistakes under the most rapid putting out of the words. In this manner, the majority of the class could spell from fifteen to twenty words without a mistake. The reading is likewise good; even the lessons in poetry were fairly read for scholars so young. Their knowledge of punctuation also excited our attention, and the teachers' excellent method of instruction in it is worthy of praise. The recitations in the Primary-Geography, and Arithmetic, still maintain the former reputation of the teacher. The order and general exercises, particularly those in calisthenics, are admirable. Both Teacher and Assistant have devoted themselves to their work, and amid many difficulties and perplexities



have won success. The parents whose children attend this school have reason to be satisfied.

## PRIMARY No. 2.

*Principal*, Miss SARAH F. JONES.

*Assistant*, 2d Department, Miss HARRIET A. HENDERSON.

The wisdom of placing the two departments of this large school in separate rooms, has become more and more apparent since the separation was made. The Assistant, Miss HARRIET A. HENDERSON, is well adapted to her sphere, and the results of her patient and judicious labor are satisfactorily apparent. She is able to throw an air of cheerfulness and a charm of interest into the exercises of her school, which secures the affection and improvement of her almost infantile charge.

The July examination of the first department, was a decided improvement over the others we have attended, while the school has been under the care of Miss Jones. The black-boards were embellished with a large number of drawings, pronounced to be superior for schools of this grade, by a member of the School Committee from a neighboring town, which is justly proud of its excellent schools. The recitations in Geography were almost perfect; but those in Arithmetic were not fully up to what we could have wished. The order of the school has not always been perfect; but, as we said in our last report, this may result in a great measure from the imperfect arrangements of the room. The school has suffered somewhat from truancy; and it has lost some of its brightest ornaments by promotions to the Grammar Schools, or by removals from Town. Miss Jones was induced to resign her charge in January, for a new one in a neighboring town. Her place has been supplied by Miss Ellen Child, under whose instruction progress and success are confidently expected.



## PRIMARY No. 3.

*Teacher, Miss ELLEN HARRIS.*

Through another year, this school has been kept up to its former commendable position. It is still characterized by good order, and a spirit of laudable ambition to be prompt and correct in every exercise. At the July examination two hundred and eight words were put out, of which, all except twenty-two were spelled correctly. This school excels in reading. In this branch it is probably second to no Primary in Town, and some of the best readers in our Grammar and High Schools were under Miss Harris' instructions. But the subject of punctuation has been somewhat neglected, so that the pupils have not such a knowledge of it as is desirable. But this defect will be fully remedied. The recitations in Arithmetic and Geography, demonstrated that much pains had been bestowed on the instruction in these branches. The exhibition of singing and calisthenics was very pleasing.

## PRIMARY No. 4.

*Principal, Mrs. MARY C. ALEXANDER.**Assistant, Miss H. A. LEAVITT.*

It must be confessed, that for several years past, this School has been below the grade of our other Primaries. It has labored under numerous and great difficulties, which are not yet altogether removed. But it has improved under the hands of its present teachers, and we hope the time is not distant when their patient devotion to their work, may be rewarded with a much larger measure of success. They have worked hard and well through the year. Indeed, Mrs. Alexander strove beyond her strength, to prepare her School for the July Examination, so that, the day on which it took place she was too ill to rise from her bed. She and her Assistant have



deserved and received the sympathy and coöperation of the Committee, who commend their faithfulness, and confidently look for its fuller reward.

### PRIMARY No. 5.

*Principal, Miss MARY E. KINGSLEY.*

*Assistant, Miss ANNA L. KINGSLEY.*

The school-house occupied by Primary No. 5 is one of the neatest, best furnished, and convenient in town. But it became excessively crowded, by the great number of scholars attending during the Summer Term. To remedy this, a number of pupils were transferred to No. 4, and all the most advanced scholars were promoted to the 3d Department of the Bennett Grammar. The spelling of this School compares favorably with our other Primaries, and the reading was very satisfactory, especially in the younger classes, under the instruction of the Assistant. The scholars in all the classes have been very thoroughly drilled in punctuation and abbreviations. Improvement might be made in Arithmetic, but the recitations in Geography did not suffer in comparison with our other Schools of the same grade. The prospects of the School for another year are hopeful.

### PRIMARY No. 6.

*Teacher, Miss MARY E. WELLMAN.*

We have nothing but words of commendation for this Teacher and her School. The reputation of this School for spelling has been maintained, as is evident from the fact, that at one of the examinations but four words were misspelled out of the one hundred and seventeen which were put out. There has been a considerable improvement in reading, and a thorough attention to punctuation. Nor did the other recitations fall behind. There has been on the part of parents an increasing confidence in the Teacher, and a growing appreciation of



her gifts and labors. She has, too, most happily won the affections of her youthful charge, so that the pleasantest relations exist between teacher and scholar. During the Fall and Winter Term, the School was seriously interrupted and sadly broken by disease and death. Six of the pupils died, and so many others were ill, that it became a necessity to suspend the School for two or three weeks. But the School is again under successful operation, and with the comfort and convenience of its new school-house, added to its other facilities, will, it is believed, fully meet all expectations.

### TEACHERS' SALARIES.

With the exception of the High School, the salaries of all our Teachers have been advanced, to the extent of the extra Appropriation made by the Town for this purpose. To grade this advance equitably and justly between all our Teachers, was the subject of several protracted consultations between your Committee, and they believe their adjustment of it is satisfactory to all concerned. But the advance is not in every instance equal to the demands of the times, and the merits of the Teachers.

### APPROPRIATIONS.

The Committee recommend that the sum of Eighty-five Hundred Dollars be appropriated by the Town for Teachers' Wages, Fuel, and Incidental Expenses of the Schools for the ensuing year.

Respectfully, in behalf of the School Committee,

RALPH H. BOWLES, *Chairman.*

RALPH H. BOWLES, } *School Committee.*  
J. P. C. WINSHIP, }



# COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

## IN

# HIGH SCHOOL.

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### FOURTH CLASS.—First Year.

*Arithmetic.*—Greenleaf's Common School (completed).

*History of U. S.*—Quackenbos's (begun).

*Book Keeping, Double Entry.*—Mayhew's System.

*English Grammar.*—(S. S. Green's Parsing and Analysis.)

### THIRD CLASS.—Second Year.

*Algebra.*—Sherwin's Elementary.

*General History.*—(Worcester's Introductory—Feudal System, Crusades, England, France.)

*Natural Philosophy.*—Quackenbos's.

*French.*—Robertsonian System; Earnst's Series; Modern Publication.

### SECOND CLASS.—Third Year.

*Geometry.*—Introduction to Geometry, and Science of Form.

*General History, Ancient.*—Worcester's.

*Physiology.*

*Zoology.*—Ware and Smellie's Philosophy of Natural History.

*Botany.*—Gray's How Plants Grow.

*French.*—Continuation of Second Year's Course of Study.



**FIRST CLASS.—Fourth Year.**

*Mathematics.*—Special Course.

*Rhetoric.*—Quackenbos's.

*Chemistry.*

*Astronomy.*

*French.*—Continuation of Third Year's Course of Study.

*Constitution of the United States.*—Sheppard's Text-book.

**CLASSICAL COURSE.\***

*First Year.*—Latin Grammar, Andrews' and Stoddard's; Latin Reader, Andrews'.

*Second Year.*—Cæsar, Andrews'; Greek Grammar, Sophocles'; Greek Lessons, Sophocles'.

*Third Year.*—Virgil; Anabasis, Crosby's.

*Fourth Year.*—Cicero, Folsom's; Iliad (three books); Ancient Geography.

**GENERAL EXERCISES.**

*First Year.*—Writing; Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writing Books.

*Through the Course.*—Reading, Spelling, Composition, and Declamation.

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\* The Classical Course is entirely optional; what branches of study those pursuing it may give up, must be determined by the circumstances of each scholar.



## CALENDAR.

### THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Ends—1865, Last Monday (31st day) in July.

Begins, 1865, Second Monday (11th day) in September.

1. *Spring and Summer Term*—Twenty Weeks.

Begins—1865, First Monday (6th day) in March.

[*Recess*: One week—from Third Monday (15th day) in May, to Fourth Monday (22d day) in May.

Ends—1865, Fourth Monday (24th day) in July.

2. *The Summer Vacation*—Six Weeks.

Begins—1865, Fourth Monday (24th day) in July.

Ends—1865, First Monday (4th day) in September.

3. *The Autumn Term*—Twelve Weeks.

Begins—1865, First Monday (4th day) in September.

Ends—1865, Last Monday (27th day) in November.

4. *The Autumn Vacation*—One Week.

Begins—1865, Last Monday (27th day) in November.

Ends—1865, First Monday (4th day) in December.

5. *The Winter Term*—Twelve Weeks.

Begins—1865, First Monday (4th day) in December.

Ends—1866, Last Monday (28th day) in February.

### HOLIDAYS.

The following days are prescribed holidays:—

All Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

New-Year's Day.

Washington's Birthday.

Fast *ay*.

May Day.

June 17th.

Independence Day.

Harvard College Commencement Day (For High School only).

Thanksgiving.

Christmas.



## STATISTICAL TABLE.

SCHOOL.	SPRING & SUM. TERM.				FALL TERM.				WINTER TERM.				THE WHOLE YEAR.				Per cent. of Attendance.
	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Examination.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Examination.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging Jan. 1st, 1865.	Average Attendance.	Av. belonging Jan. 1, 1865.	Average at Examination.	Average Attendance.			
High School, . . . . .	63	43	38	48	51	48	43	46	51	50	43	50	55	41	46	.91	
Bennett Grammar, 1st Department, . . . . .	48	35	27	37	53	50	40	41	49	47	35	48	49	38	40	.80	
Bennett Grammar, 2d Department, . . . . .	45	42	39	37	50	47	36	38	49	48	39	45	48	38	38	.79	
Bennett Grammar, 3d Department, . . . . .	43	40	38	37	51	48	—	45	54	54	47	47	49	38	43	.87	
All Departments, . . . . .	136	117	104	111	154	145	76	124	152	149	121	140	146	114	121	.82	
Harvard Grammar, . . . . .	96	67	60	62	92	86	75	74	92	91	76	80	90	69	70	.77	
Primary I., . . . . .	91	85	84	80	74	71	—	70	80	77	60	80	85	84	73	.86	
Primary II., 1st Department, . . . . .	64	55	49	49	59	57	50	44	58	58	48	56	60	50	47	.71	
Primary II., 2d Department, . . . . .	75	71	65	55	69	64	57	54	65	64	50	66	69	61	53	.76	
Both Departments, . . . . .	139	126	114	104	128	121	107	98	123	122	98	122	129	111	100	.77	
Primary III., . . . . .	79	61	52	41	72	67	—	47	60	55	39	57	70	52	42	.60	
Primary IV., . . . . .	85	79	76	55	65	62	—	50	62	64	50	68	71	67	52	.70	
Primary V., . . . . .	118	112	92	74	91	89	61	63	86	82	53	94	98	76	63	.64	
Primary VI., . . . . .	56	45	36	34	49	20	—	27	29	29	22	31	45	36	28	.62	
Nine Schools, . . . . .	863	735	656	609	776	709	362	599	735	719	562	722	789	650	505	.75	



## F I N A N C E.

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Appropriation for the support of schools, 1864-5, .	\$6,700 00
“ for fuel for schools, . . . .	900 00
“ for incidentals for schools, . . . .	700 00
“ from State School Fund, . . . .	167 67
Total amount, . . . .	<u>\$8,467 67</u>

Expenditures during the year, ending February 1, 1865,  
as per bills approved by the Committee—

For Salaries of Teachers, . . . . .	\$6,895 57
fuel, . . . . .	1,284 65
incidental expenses, . . . . .	1,250 36
Total amount, . . . . .	<u>\$9,430 58</u>

Amount expended in excess, . . . . .	\$962 91
unexpended, 1863-4, . . . . .	577 66
Net amount expended in excess, . . . . .	<u>\$405 25</u>











TWENTY-EIGHTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE

1858-59  
Town of Brighton,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 1, 1866.



BOSTON:  
CHARLES H. CROSBY, PRINTER,  
Nos. 13 & 46 WATER STREET.  
1866.







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73689

Pres. T. A. Whitney  
May 8. 1868



# REPORT.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON :

The School Committee respectfully submit their Twenty-eighth Annual Report.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Your Committee have labored, during the year, under an increasing sense of the importance of the interests committed to their care, and have been actuated by an earnest desire to bring the schools of the town to the highest possible efficiency. The value of a judicious, popular education, especially in a Republic, cannot be too highly appreciated. To carry on this work in our town, devolves on the School Committee duties, whose almost numberless details require attention nearly every day, and whose right discharge requires much thought and discretion. The care of our school-houses—to preserve the property for the longest possible period—the best modes of furnishing, warming, ventilating, and repairing, so as to supply what is requisite, and, at the same time, avoid all needless expenditure—the discipline of the schools—the best means of promoting progress in their studies—the changes of text-books—the supply of teachers, and counselling with them—hearing complaints of parents against discipline, and their requests that their children may be made exceptions to general rules, because of bodily infirmities, or other causes—the reference to us of cases of absentees and of insubordination,—these, and many other



questions often coming before us, may seem trivial, and easy to settle; but they not infrequently involve the interest and welfare of all the schools. The settlement of one of them, oftentimes establishes a precedent for like action in a score of other cases, and a mistake may entail evil consequences on the educational interests of the whole town. To refuse to one case what has already been granted to a similar one, justly exposes the Committee to the charge of partiality. The settlement of these questions, too, is difficult and delicate, because it touches the most sensitive chords of parental preference and affection. We have endeavored to give to these duties the care and thought they demanded, and to settle them always impartially, and with a reference to the general good. It is due to ourselves to say that we have reached results with entire unanimity; and we desire to tender to our fellow-citizens our acknowledgments for their general approval of our decisions.

#### **PRESENTATION TO THE CHAIRMAN.**

On the evening of January 1, 1866, the pupils and teachers of the High and Bennett Grammar Schools presented to the Chairman of the School Committee, an elegant silver ice-pitcher, salver and cake basket. The presentation speech was made by Master Ira Stockwell, of the High School, and the articles were extended to the Chairman from the hands of Misses Mary J. Osborn, Fannie Swan, Mary Duncklee, and Emma Bates. The Chairman made a brief but feeling reply. It was a pleasant occasion.

#### **MARKET DAYS.**

Our schools are materially affected by the prominent business of the town; it creates a demand for boys to drive the flocks and herds for two days in each week. At this employment



boys earn from fifty cents to three dollars a day ; the consequence is, that a number of boys engaged in this work are absent from one-third of their recitations every week. A large proportion of our absences are from this cause. It will be readily seen that this is not only a serious detriment to the education of these absentees themselves, but likewise a more serious detriment and wrong to the schools in which they belong. The other members of their classes must be held back in their studies to allow them to keep up, and the teacher must spend extra time with them, which of right belongs to the others. But the worst of all, is the pernicious moral effects of this practice. If it brought these boys into contact with our own citizens only, there would be little to be apprehended ; but they are brought into the company of the corrupt and vicious class, which form no inconsiderable part of the multitude drawn together in our town on market-days ; and the coarseness, falsehood, profanity and obscenity which they learn from this vile crowd, they carry with them to the play-ground of the school, and, as far as they can, teach all their school-mates to imitate it. We regret to state that the alarming extent of this evil is manifest in the fact, that some vile wretch put into the hands of one of these boys a number of obscene prints, which he distributed among the boys of the school to which he belonged. The vigilance of one of our most faithful teachers early discovered this fact, and, by his promptness, secured their immediate destruction, and nipped the evil in the bud. The Committee would withhold this fact, did they not deem it a duty to make their fellow-citizens aware of the dangers to the morals of our children, from allowing them to mingle with such a class, as they inevitably will, if permitted to act as drivers.

And yet, great as the evil is, the Committee are not prepared to offer any clearly defined and settled method to remedy it. It has been proposed to place these boys in a class by



themselves, in the schools to which they belong. But this is impracticable; because, some of them being members of each of the different classes already formed, according to the prescribed grading of the schools and course of study, this plan would double the number of recitations; whereas, at present, there are as many as can be crowded into the school hours.

The law authorizes the Committee to exclude from the schools any scholar which they may judge to be injurious and unfit; and they may continue that exclusion for the term of their office. We might exclude all boys that drive, from our schools, on the reasonable and tenable ground of their pernicious moral influence; or, perhaps, the law which forbids manufacturers to employ children under twelve years of age, unless they shall attend school one term of eleven weeks in each year, might be so construed as to authorize us to require these boys to attend continuously for one term, and exclude them altogether for the remainder of the year. To these propositions there are the following weighty objections. A few of these boys are the sons of widows, or members of families which imperatively need the income arising from this labor. And a few of them, too, notwithstanding their exposures and temptations, maintain good characters, at least while in school. It is unjust to deprive them of the advantages of an education, because of the circumstance of their poverty. One chief glory of our free Common Schools is, that they afford equal educational advantages to the poor and to the rich. Nor does it appear altogether wise to cut off even the bad boys from the schools. If they have no restraints at home, and do not have the benefit of good example while out of school, while there they learn something of morals and manners, and this may save them from utter ruin. To them, the school-room is the chief, if not the only means of mental and moral culture. To exclude them from it, is to give them up entirely to the destruction of ignorance and vice.



If parents could be made to feel, that the moral dangers of this employment far outweigh its pecuniary benefit, they might wholly cure the evil by refusing to allow their children to engage in it. And to them, we would earnestly appeal to accomplish this good work.

There remains one other plan. A separate school might be established for this class, which should hold no sessions on the two market-days. This would relieve the other schools from the dangers of their bad example, and from the hindrance of members always behind their classes; and would give the boys that drive the opportunity to continue in their text-books, without omitting, as now, what has been gone over by others for the two days in each week on which they are absent. This has to commend it, too, the theory that children who work a part of the time, and study a part of the time, make as rapid progress in their studies as those who study all the time. A writer in the *Massachusetts Teacher*, for January, 1866, says: "The experiment has been tried," in England, "on a very large scale, through an extended period of time, and in a great variety of labors—in the great cotton mills, like those of Mr. Akroyd, who employs operatives by the thousands, and on the great farms of Mr. Paget, M. P., and Lord Hatherton, and in the pauper schools of the Poor-Law Unions; and, with this extraordinary and most unexpected result, that the children who are at school only half the time, in intellectual attainments *surpass* the children who are at school all the time, while the children who are at work only half the time grow up into far more valuable and highly-paid operatives than the children who are at work all the time."

But, to carry out this plan, a new school-room in a central locality of the town would be required, and an additional male teacher, and, perhaps, a female assistant. This would involve an expense to the town, nearly equal to the amount it would require to pay to parents as much as their children earn driving,



on condition that they were kept in school every day in the week. Besides, such a school would herd together the rough and uncultured, and deprive them of the benefits to be derived from the example of those blessed with better home-influence and nurture. It could hardly fail to be regarded, as in some sense, a degradation to be sent to such a school, and would be a bitter hardship to boys of reputable character, whose poverty compels them to be absent driving on market-days; and the result might be, that many would give up school altogether, sooner than attend one of such a character and standing as this. On the other hand, the establishment of such a school would probably decrease the number of those who are absent to drive, and might, in time, result in the discontinuance of the practice altogether. A minority of the Committee hold the opinion, that no more permits of absence should be granted to these boys; but that, if they persist in this employment, they should be regarded as truants, and arrested wherever found, taken from their employment, and conducted to school. The majority are not prepared to take this position. The evil is a serious one; and perhaps the establishment of a separate school for this class would be its most effective cure.

It is worthy of remark that, notwithstanding the facts we have just stated, there is no valid reason for supposing that Brighton, or the schools in any part of it, are more dangerous to the morals and manners of children than other towns and other schools. Children who are sent every day to cities to school, can hardly fail to be as much exposed to evil influences as those who go through our own streets. The worst influences we have to contend against, flow to us from the cities. The world is full of evil; and though we may have peculiar evils, we cannot be charged with *more* than other places of equal size. The pampered children of wealth and luxury, at select schools, are often more concealed, but more dangerous corrupters than any or all the dirty driver-boys



of Brighton. Another inconvenience and danger to our scholars is —

### **FAST AND CARELESS DRIVING.**

Our streets are often full of vehicles, many of them driven at furious rates, and by reckless and drunken drivers. They sometimes even drive on to the sidewalks, so that our children are not only endangered while crossing the streets, but almost anywhere in going to and returning from school. There is a shouting and yelling, too, by these half-inebriated drivers, which, as a disturbance of the peace and order of the town, deserves no milder name than that of a disgrace. We have verbally petitioned the Board of Selectmen to enforce the law, and relieve us of this annoyance and danger; but, as yet, without perceptible effect. We would, if possible, awaken our fellow-citizens to insist upon some effective measures to suppress such an unlawful and dangerous practice.

### **PUBLIC PROCESSIONS.**

In accordance with a request of the boys of our High School, J. P. C. Winship, Esq., completed arrangements for a public celebration, by the schools, of Lee's surrender to General Grant. On the eighth of June, 1865, the High, Bennett Grammar, and Primary Schools, Nos. three, four and five, marched in procession to Union Square, where they were joined by the Harvard Grammar and the remaining schools of the town. Each school carried a banner, with appropriate inscriptions. The younger members of the Primaries were conveyed in wagons, tastefully ornamented with banners and flowers. They proceeded through the principal streets, to a large tent near the Bennett Grammar School-house, where



a bountiful collation was served. Prayer was offered by the Chairman of the School Committee, and interesting addresses were made by Rev. F. A. Whitney and others. The singing of the scholars was under the direction of Mr. G. D. Bigelow, Principal of the Harvard Grammar School, and patriotic pieces were declaimed by—

Masters J. T. SANDERSON, Z. T. CUSHMAN, and DEXTER BRACKETT, of the High School.

Masters IRA STOCKWELL, ALFRED RICHARDS, and WALTER S. GORDON; Misses ELLA COLLINS and KATE P. WELLMAN, of the Bennett Grammar.

Masters CHARLES FRANK DADMUN, ISAAC N. LEARNED, GEO. W. HARRINGTON, and JOSEPH MONTO, of the Harvard Grammar.

The Marshals, who appeared in appropriate regalia, were—

Masters WALTER HORNE, *Chief Marshal*; F. P. BECK, Z. T. CUSHMAN, W. H. PIERCE, CHARLES LEAVITT, J. R. BROCK, DEXTER BRACKETT, D. T. WADLEIGH, J. T. SANDERSON, H. H. HOLLIS, C. H. BRECK, J. A. MUNROE, and M. W. HATCH, from the High School.

Masters WALTER<sup>S</sup> GORDON, CHARLES E. SNOW, IRA STOCKWELL, ALFRED RICHARDS, FRED<sup>A</sup> PIERCE, and JOHN DEARBORN, from the Bennett Grammar School.

Masters ISAAC N. LEARNED, JOSEPH MONTO, GEO. W. HARRINGTON, EDWARD D. TUCKER, JOHN H. BENT, FRANK P. HILL, from the Harvard Grammar School.

While the procession halted in the Square, near the Church of the First Parish, it was photographed, and a copy is preserved in the High School, as well as by private individuals. The day was fine, and the appearance, conduct and exercises of the children called forth the highest encomiums of praise. Mr. Winship is worthy of mention, for his labor and skill in planning and conducting the celebration; and the Principals of the High and Grammar Schools, for their suc-



cessful drilling of all the scholars for this delightful and memorable occasion.

On the 22d of June, 1865, by invitation of the Committee of Arrangements for the public reception of returned soldiers, all our schools, with their banners, and a drum corps organized and drilled by Mr. Willard, joined the public procession, and proceeded with it through the principal streets. From the stage where the addresses were made, the following lads declaimed and won golden opinions for their performance, and for the teachers that instructed them.

*Welcoming Address*—By DEXTER BRACKETT, from the High School.

*Declamation*—By Master IRA STOCKWELL, from the Bennett Grammar School.

*Declamation*—By Master CHAS. FRANK DADMUN, of the Harvard Grammar School.

The Marshals for this occasion, were—

Masters WALTER HORNE, C. H. BRECK, Z. T. CUSHMAN, W. H. PIERCE, A. K. WEST, J. R. BROCK, DEXTER BRACKETT, D. T. WADLEIGH, J. T. SANDERSON, H. H. HOLLIS, M. W. HATCH, from the High School.

Masters WALTER S. GORDON, IRA STOCKWELL, JOHN GREENLEAF, NORTON CUSHMAN, CHARLES E. SNOW, JOHN DEARBORN, PATRICK MOLEY, from the Bennett Grammar School.

Masters ISAAC N. LEARNED, JOSEPH MONTA, GEORGE W. HARRINGTON, EDWARD D. TUCKER, JOHN H. BENT, CHAS. F. HILL, from the Harvard Grammar School.

### SCHOOL-HOUSES.

We have now seven school-houses belonging to the town, all of which are good buildings, and in a good state of repair. The Committee are of the opinion, that it was a mistake of



their predecessors to put a Primary School in the same building with the High School. The occupancy of the same yard by the members of two schools, so diverse in ages, is attended by many inconveniences, which it is next to impossible to remedy. And it is incongruous that the two extreme grades of our schools, the lowest and the highest, should be so united in one building. In previous reports, mention has also been made of the fact, that the room occupied by the Primary School, being of the same dimensions as the High School, is too large for the purpose. The proposition to make it into two, so as to have two departments of the Primary, has been discussed, and rejected because of the shape of the room.

A somewhat formidable defect exists in the chimney of this building. Under certain conditions of wind and weather, the rooms are filled with coal gas, almost to suffocation. Experienced masons have repeatedly been employed to remedy this difficulty, but without success. We are about to experiment with Emerson's Ventilator, which we hope will succeed. Each Spring, too, from the peculiar location of the building, the cellar has been so flooded with water as to put out the fires of the furnace, and necessitate the suspension of the school sometimes for several successive days. To dig a cellar-drain through solid rock for so long a distance as was requisite, was next to impossible. After much contrivance, we have been able to keep the water below the furnace fires, though the cellar is not what is needed.

No wardrobes were made in the building when it was erected, and consequently children's clothing, of considerable value, was repeatedly stolen by entry-thieves. It was found impossible to build wardrobes, except within the school-rooms themselves, to which there were insuperable objections. Our only expedient was to keep the outer door locked; and the school is subjected to the annoyance of a door-keeper, to



answer the bell for all who come in, and to lock the door after all who go out, during school hours.

One side of the hill on which the building is located is too rocky and abrupt to be graded without an enormous expense, and there is, consequently, really no yard-room, except on the girls' side, which can be used as a play-ground. The boys, therefore, have no room for a game at ball, or for a gymnasium, or for any innocent sports which would promote their health and happiness. One session of five hours, each day, is a necessity, because scholars attend from the extreme limits of the town, and would not have time to go and return between the sessions, if there were two. They ought, therefore, to have facilities for exercise and attractive sports during recess. Were the basement a good one, it might supply this deficiency by being made into a gymnasium; but it is unfit for such a purpose. Besides, there is no well on the premises, and the estimated expense of blasting one out of the rock is so large as to make it a questionable undertaking. Some neighbors complain if the scholars come on to their premises, and even of their playing in the pastures adjoining them. In consequence of the urgency and repetition of these complaints, the Principal forbade any scholars leaving the school-house grounds during school hours. However thirsty a pupil may be, he has no relief,—he must endure and suffer. We have considered plans to remove these inconveniences, but have not definitely settled upon any. The old double desks in the High School ought, long since, to have been replaced by the modern single ones. But your Committee are not prepared to recommend any large outlay, because they believe it will not be many years before the town will see the defects of the present High School building, and the mistake in its location, and erect a new one more suited to the purpose, separate from any other school, and comparing favorably with the High School accommodations in the cities and towns immediately around us.



By reference to our last Report, there will be found a statement of the reasons for leaving the upper room of the new school-house for Primary No. 6, unfinished. During the year, however, the Grammar Schools, especially the Harvard, have become so crowded as to call for more accommodation. Unless there should be a material diminution of attendance, this upper room will be required for another grammar or intermediate school. Had the room been finished, we should have made use of it this year to relieve the Harvard Grammar, which has been so crowded at times that there were thirty more scholars than desks; and these thirty occupied settees, and even the teacher's platform. The Committee therefore recommend an appropriation to finish and furnish this room. We have made an unsuccessful attempt to hire of a householder near the school-house, the privilege of drawing water from his well for the school. It will be necessary, therefore, to provide a well on the premises.

The warming and ventilating of our school-houses is a matter of great importance; because not only the comfort of teachers and scholars is involved in it, but likewise their health, and success in study. We have paid very careful attention to it; but still our furnaces and stoves have given us no little trouble. They have required frequent alterations and repairs, sometimes interrupting the schools by their failures. Yet we are informed that like troubles are experienced in adjoining towns, where they expend more for the purpose than we do, and that private dwellings are not exempt from similar annoyances. Our teachers, generally, are worthy of commendation for their care of the school-houses and fixtures.

Some of our school-yards are nearly destitute of trees, and the Committee have not yet seen the fulfilment of the promise of some persons in their vicinity, to supply this want. Some expenditure in this direction is demanded, and will be made, unless the owners of land near these buildings shall soon volunteer to do the work.



The cellar floors of our school-houses have never been cemented, and being composed of loose gravel, the coal becomes mixed with it, and unavoidably wasted. As the children use them for a play-ground on rainy days, they soil their clothing, and carry the sand and gravel on their shoes into the school-rooms. In the basement of the Bennett Grammar we have now a gymnasium, and the state of the cellar floor is a serious annoyance. The Committee recommend that in the appropriations for the next year, allowance be made for the expense of cement floors in the basements of our school-houses.

### MUSIC.

For a considerable portion of the year, Mr. C. E. Whiting, of Cambridge, has sung with the High, Bennett, and Harvard Grammar Schools, one hour each, every week. He has received no other compensation except the profits from concerts in which the children assisted him, and other artists. He has taught the children some tunes, but has not given instruction in the rudiments of music, or qualified them to sing independently. Some of our citizens have expressed a desire for the employment of a music-teacher in the schools, as is done in Boston, and in some towns in the Commonwealth. Our fellow-citizens are too well informed on this point to make it necessary for us to set before them the moral and physical benefits of music in our schools. All that is necessary for us to say is, if they will make an appropriation for this purpose, we will endeavor to employ the best teacher we can obtain for the sum they will authorize us to expend for music. We have made a small appropriation for part payment of the use of a piano in the Harvard Grammar School, the principal part of the expense being paid by the scholars themselves. Considering the small amount of vocal instruction given, our



school-children's singing is commendable. In the High School, there is an unaccountable unwillingness to play the piano, on the part of those who know how, and who ought to aid in this exercise. The Committee are decidedly of the opinion, that the interests of this school demand more effective instruction in music, and that it ought to be furnished without further delay.

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Our six Primary Schools have successfully performed their work for the year. The results of their examinations have, in general, been satisfactory. They are still distinguished for good spelling, which has been commended in previous reports. The teachers have earned, and deserve approbation.

These schools, according to our present system, are so much alike, that it is unnecessary to make a separate report for each. It is enough, and very gratifying, to be able to report them as having done well through the year. It seems proper, however, to mention that Miss ELLEN CHILD, teacher of the First Department of No. 2, was called from her school in September last, by the sickness and death of her mother. Her place was temporarily supplied by Mrs. ASA BURBANK, Miss KATE KELLY, and Miss HELEN O. WYMAN.

In consequence of these changes, the school did not appear as well at examination as the other Primaries; but we suppose we have a permanent teacher in Miss EMMA F. HOLMES, for whose success we hope.

Miss HENDERSON, of the Second Department of this school, was obliged, by illness, for a few weeks in the Autumn Term, to relinquish her work. Her place was supplied by Miss SOPHIA E. BALDWIN, who appears well adapted to teach an Infant Department. It gives us satisfaction that Miss HEN-



DERSON, who has hitherto succeeded admirably, has returned again to her former position. Miss WELLMAN, of No. 6, has also been obliged to be temporarily absent from her school, on account of the severe illness and death of her mother. Her place was supplied by Miss ELIZA HARRIS. In September last, Miss MARY E. KINGSLEY, on account of the state of her health, resigned her position as Principal of Primary No. 5. Her place was supplied by her sister, Miss ANNA L. KINGSLEY, and Miss CHARLOTTE ADAMS was appointed Assistant. Primary No. 4 appeared better at the last examination than it has since it came under our care; but honesty compels us to say, that its management is not satisfactory in all respects, and may require some change. The teachers of our Primaries, for the year, have been as follows :—

*Primary No. 1.*—Miss ROSA A. ROBERTS, *Principal*. Miss MARY B. MONTGOMERY, *Assistant*.

*Primary No. 2.*—Miss ELLEN CHILD, Mrs. A. BURBANK, Miss KATE KELLY, Miss HELEN O. WYMAN and Miss EMMA F. HOLMES, *Principals in Course*. Miss HARRIET A. HENDERSON and Miss SOPHIA E. BALDWIN, *Assistants, Second Department, in Course*.

*Primary No. 3.*—Miss ELLEN HARRIS.

*Primary No. 4.*—Mrs. MARY C. ALEXANDER, *Principal*. Miss H. A. LEAVITT, *Assistant*.

*Primary No. 5.*—Miss MARY E. KINGSLEY and Miss ANNA L. KINGSLEY, *Principals in Course*. Miss ANNA L. KINGSLEY and Miss CHARLOTTE ADAMS, *Assistants in Course*.

*Primary No. 6.*—Miss MARY E. WELLMAN and Miss ELIZA HARRIS.



## BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Principal and Teacher, First Department*, Mr. W. H. KNIGHT, succeeded by Mr. W. A. P. WILLARD.

*Assistant, First Department*, Miss ELIZA S. WILLIAMS.

*Assistant, Second Department*, Miss SARAH E. WAUGH.

*Assistant, Third Department*, Miss SARAH E. GILMAN.

This school was under the charge of Mr. KNIGHT for only one term. The examination with which that term closed, showed that the school had made unusual progress in their studies, and that their instruction had been eminently thorough and effective. This was especially evident in the Arithmetic Classes. The military promptness and precision of the calisthenic exercises, were worthy of particular mention. We should have been glad to retain him, but he felt it to be his duty to resign.

At the commencement of the Spring and Summer Terms, the Committee elected Mr. W. A. P. WILLARD his successor. The remembrance of the long and successful career of their late lamented Principal, Mr. SOLOMON A. POOR, and the resignation of Mr. KNIGHT so soon, with some attendant circumstances, it was feared, would prove a serious obstacle to the prosperity of the school, and perhaps, for some time, an insuperable barrier to the entire success of any teacher we could obtain. But Mr. WILLARD happily succeeded, almost immediately, in securing the respect and affections of his pupils, and is deservedly esteemed by the Committee, by parents, and our citizens generally. Without expense to the town, he has transformed a portion of the basement of the school-house into a Gymnasium, which has not only interested the boys during recess, but has likewise benefited their health, and tended to make the school-house so attractive, that some, after passing their examination for admission to the High



School, asked, as a special favor, that they might still be allowed to visit the Gymnasium. Under Mr. W.'s training, there is better singing than we have heard in the school since it has been under our official care. These exercises have not been made prominent to the neglect or detriment of the prescribed studies; they have had just the contrary tendency. The class examined for the High School, showed clearly the result of diligent training and intelligent instruction. The appearance of the school, when we have visited it, and the examinations which have been held, have been alike creditable to teacher and pupils. The crowded state of the two lower departments of the school, rendered it necessary to promote scholars to the First Department before they were fully prepared for such an advancement. This brought scholars of different acquirements into the same classes, and was beginning to be a hindrance to their comfort and progress. To remedy this, Miss ELIZA S. WILLIAMS has been temporarily employed to assist the Principal in hearing the extra recitations, requisite to bring the school into a more practicable and working classification. We have high hopes for the school under its present Principal. Miss WAUGH and Miss GILMAN have been as laborious and successful as heretofore. They have established a good reputation as teachers, and, by the results presented in their schools, continue to maintain it. The language of our last year's Report is as true now, and as applicable as it was then.

“Miss GILMAN deserves especial praise, for her indefatigable and judicious labors, to bring to order the large number of scholars introduced to her care from the Primaries. They have both surmounted great obstacles to success, by that tact and knowledge of human nature for which they have heretofore been distinguished.”



## HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Principal*, Mr. GUILFORD D. BIGELOW.

*Assistant*, Miss MARY F. CHILD, succeeded by Miss SARAH COOLIDGE, succeeded by Miss ELIZA S. WILLIAMS, succeeded by Miss ELLEN CHILD.

At the close of the Winter Term, 1865, there was an Exhibition by this school, of Declamations, Dialogues, Readings from the School Paper, and other Select Readings. These exercises were interspersed with recitations of studies pursued during the term, and with vocal music. The school-room, and even the entries and stairways, were crowded with parents and friends of the school. This Exhibition produced a most favorable impression on all present; and so enthusiastic were many, that they suggested that the Committee should procure Union Hall for a similar one the following Spring. It was urged that the community generally ought to have the opportunity of witnessing the fact, that one of our public schools could present an Exhibition, which, all things considered, would not compare unfavorably with those of popular and expensive Private Academies. This Exhibition cost the teachers much extra labor, which was performed out of the regular school hours. It reflected great credit on them and on their pupils. Such occasions, if not too frequent, not only present an attractive variation to the dry routine of the daily studies, but they polish the scholars' manners, improve their reading, and awaken the interest and attention of parents and the public generally, in the school. It is a well-known fact, that our most popular and successful Private Schools depend largely for their patronage on such an annual Exhibition; and that, in some of the Public Schools of our cities, the privilege of appearing before the public, is the only inducement to excel in Declamation. And this is found amply sufficient. The



success of the Harvard Grammar School, on such occasions, has already produced good fruit, and promises well for its future. The members of the First Class, who were examined for the High School, with a few exceptions, did honor to themselves and to their school.

After the classes from the three Primaries had been promoted, according to the present grading of the schools, at the beginning of the Fall and Winter Term, the school was crowded to the most unprecedented extent. By a reference to the statistical table, it will be found that 122 were registered. The Committee held several consultations to relieve the teachers and the school of this pressure. The room has already all the desks it will hold; no more could be furnished. To the class just admitted, was submitted whether they would be willing to attend to the same studies they would pursue in this room, under the teacher of the Primary School below; and they gave a unanimous negative. Besides, it was a difficult matter to settle on any principle by which the class could be divided, and one division sent below; and in addition to this, the lower room would also be filled to its utmost capacity by such a course. Parents felt, too, that the children had reached the age and degree of acquirement when they should be under the oversight of a man.

It was thought that a few more desks might be crowded into the Bennett Grammar School, and some one neighborhood of children detached from the Harvard and sent to the Bennett. But when, in connection with the Principal, we endeavored to make the selection, we found that each neighborhood contained some scholars whom he regarded as his jewels, and felt he could not relinquish. Attachments had grown between teacher and scholars, which it seemed inexpedient violently to dis sever. The Committee, too, discovered evident uneasiness and anxiety on the part of parents and scholars, about the contemplated removal. This plan, therefore, failed; and the Principal has



toiled patiently on, maintaining the good order and discipline for which he has been distinguished, notwithstanding the crowded and uncomfortable state of his school-room, and the unreasonably large number under his charge. Unless there shall be a material diminution in the attendance, it will be necessary to fit up the recitation room, which has never yet been used, and employ an additional assistant, and to provide some new accommodations for the classes graduating from the Primaries next August. For this purpose, we shall probably need the room over the new school-house, No. 6, and we have therefore already recommended an appropriation to finish and furnish it.

During the Summer Term, the Assistant, Miss Mary F. Child, was granted temporary leave of absence, on account of the severe illness of her mother. Her place was supplied by Miss Sarah Coolidge, a young lady from our own High School, in whom we think we discover the elements of a good teacher. She would have been retained, but she was tempted away by the offer of a permanent situation as teacher in an adjoining town. Miss Child, at the commencement of the Fall and Winter Term, being still unable to resume her place in the school, proposed to resign; but we were anxious to retain her, and so Miss Eliza S. Williams was temporarily engaged as her substitute. But Miss Child's mother's sickness terminated fatally, and she felt it her duty to resign in October last. We accepted her resignation with regret; because she has taught in our schools for several successive years, to our entire satisfaction, and secured the confidence and esteem of parents and children. The universal feeling is, that it was a privilege to be under her instruction. She was good as a disciplinarian,—competent and efficient in all the branches she taught,—but she particularly excelled in teaching Arithmetic. The classes she trained in Mental Arithmetic, called forth our warmest praise. Her character, manners, interest in her scholars, and



moral influence were all that could be desired. Her resignation is a loss to the school and to the town. Probably there could not be found a single dissenting voice to these, and even stronger words of commendation. Our good wishes follow her; and we hope the time will come, when she will not feel that her duty as a daughter interferes with her duty as a teacher, in which office she seems to have been born, and fitted to move with success. Her sister, Miss Ellen Child, has been appointed to fill her place.

Under all its obstacles of over-numbers and change of assistant teachers, the school is still in a healthy condition, and making commendable progress. We very often hear it remarked by those whose children attend the Harvard Grammar,—“It is a *good* school.” And the popular impression is correct.

## HIGH SCHOOL.

*Principal*, MR. W. H. MERRITT, A. M.

*Assistant*, MISS ANNA J. GEORGE.

The examinations at the High School during the year have evinced competent instruction, and a good degree of study. It will be seen, by a reference to the prescribed course of studies, that it affords facilities for the higher English branches, for the preliminary course in the sciences, for the French language, for book-keeping, and for the studies required for admission to college. Nothing but application to study is necessary for any scholar in our High School to perfect themselves in these branches. Nothing but application to study is needed to secure to any member of this school such an education as will qualify them to move in cultivated society—to be teachers in our common schools—to pursue, with advantage, the higher course of study in the college or scientific school, or to engage in the ordinary pursuits of business; and there is no question



that the school will be found in the future, as in the past, to furnish this, and other communities, with efficient and intelligent men and women, well prepared for the duties of practical life. One of the most important institutions of the town, it ought to enlist the interest and secure the attention of at least all parents. But while no school is more freely and unfavorably criticised, there is reason to suspect that few form their opinions of it from any actual and reliable knowledge gained by personal visits to the school, and an understanding of its working by any thorough investigation. The examinations have been attended by only a few parents and citizens. The Principal, on one occasion, sent out written invitations to visit the school, to the families of every scholar, but not one individual of those invited honored the school with a visit. At another time, the Principal gave permission to the scholars to invite their friends to be present on the day for declamations and compositions, and but a very few came. While such neglect continues, it is unreasonable to expect any great amount of ardent interest, or healthy emulation, on the part of the scholars. By our recommendation, weekly reports of the deportment of each scholar, with their attendance and standing in studies, were transmitted to every parent for investigation and signature. But not a few parents directed their children to sign them; and so little attention was paid to them, that they were discontinued. It was attended by a considerable amount of labor on the part of the teachers, and it is a matter of regret and mortification, that parents were not enough interested in it to carefully examine them, to become acquainted with their child's progress, faithfulness or unfaithfulness, and by their counsel and authority to induce their children to make the best use of their advantages. Had parents cordially co-operated in this plan, instead of relying upon the biased reports of the scholars, they would have gained a more exact knowledge of the school, and their opinions of it would be



more just. In all schools, but more especially in a high school, an intelligent and cordial parental co-operation is indispensable to success. Those admitted to the High School are of an age to begin to feel the first strong attractions of company,—to break from wholesome restraints, and to think themselves wiser than their instructors ; and none but a parent can guard them against a neglect of their studies, and the loss of interest in them, by an excessive devotion to places of amusement and social gathering. None can so successfully, as parents, inspire the minds of children in their teens, with the value of education, the importance of acquiring it, and the need and propriety of obedience and good behavior. The family is the fountain of all society, and the importance of good home influences cannot be too highly estimated. We feel it our duty, as the guardians of public education, to omit no opportunity of calling attention to this subject.

This school needs a healthy desire to excel. While the scholars are in the Grammar Schools, they are stimulated by a laudable ambition to fit themselves for the High School. But once admitted there, they seem to feel that they have reached the acme,—that there is no further need of exertion to secure promotion. It is desirable to impress the young with the value of education, so that they will earnestly seek it for its own sake. But all successful educators have found the need of calling in to their aid some other stimulus. And hence prizes are offered for excellence, in various branches, by our colleges and higher schools. We have before, in our reports, called attention to the importance of prizes, to excite the ambition of the members of our High School. The successful results of one experiment, made by the liberality of Mr. Winship, have already been reported. We call attention to the matter again, in the hope that it may induce some of our wealthy citizens to erect a monument to their memory, and promote the cause of education in the present and in future generations, by



securing to the town, a fund for the presentation of prizes for the highest attainments in some of the branches pursued in our High School. There is needed, too, a higher appreciation of a college education. We are so near to one of the best colleges on this continent, that the sons of our residents can board at home, while they are pursuing its course of study and reaping its benefits. And yet there are very few of our youth who avail themselves of this convenience and advantage. The establishment of a High School in any community has always elevated and improved the common schools; and there can be no question that, if at each Commencement of Harvard University a class of at least a dozen young men, were admitted to the college course from our High School, the improvement to the school would be rapid and apparent.

Many of our citizens have an abundance of means to send their sons to college; but others have not. The College itself is liberally endowed, and offers a helping hand to those who are good scholars, but have not money. But there are many applicants for the funds of the College. We repeat, therefore, the suggestion, that our citizens should raise a fund sufficient to endow scholarships in Harvard University, so that each year the young man from our High School, who shall pass the best examination of the class fitted for college, may receive the benefits of a scholarship during his collegiate course. Thus the town might have four students—one in each class—in college perpetually. The benefits to the school, to the town, and to the world, from such a provision, stretching on as they would, through years and generations, can scarcely be measured. We commend this to the earnest attention of our wealthy citizens, that it may be remembered when they make their wills, if not before.

The present Principal is a very competent instructor in the studies preparatory to college, and the few now pursuing them are using the same text-books as those used in the Cambridge



schools, and are doing well. In the twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Board of Education, of this Commonwealth, from page 11 to page 17, are remarks on the importance of the study of ancient languages, which we most earnestly commend to the perusal of all our fellow-citizens, especially to those who regard them as useless, or as of less value than the sciences or modern languages.

The school is deficient in declamation, composition, music, calisthenics, and drawing. More attention will be paid to these branches. A new text-book, on the application of grammar to composition, has been introduced, and it is believed it will be found of great benefit. We do not mean that any scholar shall go through our High School course, without being able to write a letter free from bad grammar and spelling.

The class admitted to the school last August is one of great promise. They are ambitious to do well, and appear to be under good influences at home. Our expectations are that they will be an ornament to the school. Your Committee cherish a high estimate of the value and importance of a good High School, and are earnestly laboring to make ours all that can be desired. But the best instructors and appliances cannot bring it to the highest success, without the intelligent and earnest co-operation of parents and guardians.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The number of children in town, between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the first day of May last, by the Assessors, according to law, was 751. Boys. 382. Girls, 369. Other statistical information may be found in the table appended to this Report.



# APPROPRIATIONS.

The Committee recommend that the sum of \$11,500 be appropriated by the town, for teachers' wages, fuel, and incidental expenses of the schools for the ensuing year.

Respectfully, in behalf of the School Committee,

RALPH H. BOWLES, *Chairman.*

RALPH H. BOWLES,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
J. P. C. WINSHIP,		
C. H. B. BRECK,		



# COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

## IN

# HIGH SCHOOL.

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### FOURTH CLASS.—First Year.

*Arithmetic*.—Greenleaf's Common School (continued).  
*History of the United States*.—Quackenbos's (begun).  
*English Grammar*.—(S. S. Green's Parsing and Analysis.)

### THIRD CLASS.—Second Year.

*Arithmetic*.—Greenleaf's Common School (completed).  
*Algebra*.—Greenleaf's Elementary.  
*Book Keeping*.—Mayhew's System.  
*General History*.—(Worcester's Introductory—Feudal System, Crusades, England, France.)  
*Natural Philosophy*.—Quackenbos's.  
*French*.—Robertsonian System; Earnst's Series; Modern Publication.

### SECOND CLASS.—Third Year.

*Algebra*.—Greenleaf's Elementary (completed).  
*Geometry*.—Introduction to Geometry, and Science of Form.  
*General History, Ancient*.—Worcester's.  
*Physiology*.  
*Zoölogy*.—Ware and Smellie's Philosophy of Natural History.  
*Botany*.—Gray's How Plants Grow.  
*French*.—Continuation of Second Year's Course of Study.



**FIRST CLASS.—Fourth Year.**

*Mathematics.*—Geometry.

*Rhetoric.*—Quackenbos's.

*Chemistry.*—Youman's.

*Astronomy.*

*French.*—Continuation of Third Year's Course of Study.

*Constitution of the United States.*—Sheppard's Text-book.

**CLASSICAL COURSE.\***

*First Year.*—Latin Grammar, Andrews' and Stoddard's; Latin Reader, Andrews'.

*Second Year.*—Cæsar, Andrews' or Hanson's; Greek Grammar, Sophocles'; Greek Lessons, Sophocles'.

*Third Year.*—Virgil; Anabasis, Crosby's.

*Fourth Year.*—Cicero, Hanson's or Folsom's; Iliad (three books); Ancient Geography.

**GENERAL EXERCISES.**

*First Year.*—Writing; Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writing Books.

*Through the Course.*—Reading, Spelling, Composition, and Declamation.

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\* The Classical Course is entirely optional; what branches of study those pursuing it may give up, must be determined by the circumstances of each scholar.



## CALENDAR.

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### THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Ends—1866, Last Monday (30th day) in July.

Begins—1866, Second Monday (10th day) in September.

1. *Spring and Summer Term*—Twenty Weeks.

Begins—1866, First Monday (5th day) in March.

[*Recess*: One week—from Third Monday (21st day) in May, to Fourth Monday (28th day) in May.

Ends—1866, Fourth Monday (23d day) in July.

2. *The Summer Vacation*—Six Weeks.

Begins—1866, Fourth Monday (23d day) in July.

Ends—1866, First Monday (3d day) in September.

3. *The Autumn Term*—Twelve Weeks.

Begins—1866, First Monday (3d day) in September.

Ends—1866, Last Monday (26th day) in November.

4. *The Autumn Vacation*—One Week.

Begins—1866, Last Monday (26th day) in November.

Ends—1866, First Monday (3d day) in December.

5. *The Winter Term*—Twelve Weeks.

Begins—1866, First Monday (3d day) in December.

Ends—1867, Last Monday (25th day) in February.

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### HOLIDAYS.

The following days are prescribed holidays :—

All Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

New-Year's Day.

Washington's Birthday.

Fast Day.

May Day.

June 17th.

Independence Day.

Harvard College Commencement Day (For High School only).

Thanksgiving.

Christmas.



# STATISTICAL TABLE.

SCHOOL.	SPRING & SUM. TERM.				FALL TERM.				WINTER TERM.				THE WHOLE YEAR.				Per cent. of At- tendance.
	Pupils Regis- tered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Examination.	Average Atten- dance.	Pupils Regis- tered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Examination.	Average Atten- dance.	Pupils Regis- tered.	Belonging Jan. 1st, 1866.	Average Atten- dance.	Average Regis- tered.	Av. belonging Jan. 1, 1866.	Average at Ex- amination.	Average Atten- dance.		
High School, . . . . .	51	44	42	43	59	54	50	50	56	56	50	55	147	140	131	.87	
Bennett Grammar, 1st Department, . . . . .	51	40	48	41	63	56	52	54	71	71	62	61	55	50	52	.85	
Bennett Grammar, 2d Department, . . . . .	50	48	45	42	46	45	42	37	44	44	38	47	46	44	39	.83	
Bennett Grammar, 3d Department, . . . . .	49	47	43	41	49	47	45	40	44	44	34	47	46	46	40	.85	
All Departments, . . . . .	150	135	136	124	153	148	139	131	159	159	134	155	147	140	131	.85	
Harvard Grammar, . . . . .	105	78	72	76	122	111	100	99	114	108	89	114	99	86	88	.77	
Primary I. . . . .	93	88	80	81	82	74	62	70	78	78	65	84	80	71	72	.86	
Primary II., 1st Department, . . . . .	59	46	45	44	49	45	32	39	47	45	41	51	45	25	41	.80	
Primary II., 2d Department, . . . . .	82	77	73	58	72	66	58	56	59	59	49	71	67	65	54	.76	
Both Departments, . . . . .	141	123	118	102	121	111	90	95	106	104	90	122	112	90	95	.78	
Primary III. . . . .	78	65	59	57	70	57	50	42	62	60	46	67	60	54	48	.71	
Primary IV. . . . .	90	82	70	68	79	78	65	66	78	78	54	82	79	68	63	.77	
Primary V. . . . .	115	99	87	58	112	104	81	82	93	91	71	106	98	84	70	.66	
Primary VI. . . . .	51	41	37	35	47	44	39	37	43	43	36	47	43	38	36	.76	
Nine Schools, . . . . .	874	755	701	644	850	781	676	672	789	777	635	832	774	677	651	.79	



## EXPENDITURES.

### SALARIES FOR TEACHERS.

APPROPRIATION, . . . \$7,500 00

#### HIGH SCHOOL.

W. H. Merritt, Principal, . . .	\$1,300 00	
Miss A. J. George, Assistant, . . .	400 00	
	<u>          </u>	\$1,700 00

#### BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

W. A. P. Willard, Principal, . . .	\$904 55	
W. H. Knight, . . . . .	95 45	
Miss S. E. Waugh, Assistant, . . .	400 00	
Miss S. E. Gilkman, Assistant, . . .	400 00	
Miss E. E. Williams, Assistant, . . .	60 00	
	<u>          </u>	1,860 00

#### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

G. D. Bigelow, Principal, . . .	\$1,000 00	
Miss M. F. Child, Assistant, . . .	300 00	
Miss E. Child, . . . . .	100 00	
	<u>          </u>	1,400 00

#### PRIMARY No. 1.

Miss R. A. Roberts, Principal, . . .	\$350 00	
Miss M. B. Monto, Assistant, . . .	200 00	
	<u>          </u>	550 00

#### PRIMARY No. 2.

Miss E. Child, Principal, . . . . .	\$262 50	
Miss H. A. Henderson, Assistant, . . .	280 00	
Miss E. Holmes, . . . . .	87 50	
	<u>          </u>	630 00

Amount carried forward, . . . . .	\$6,140 00
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Amount brought forward, . . . \$6,140 00

PRIMARY No. 3.

Miss Ellen Harris, . . . . .	\$350 00	
	<hr/>	350 00

PRIMARY No. 4.

Mrs. Alexander, Principal, . . . . .	\$350 00	
Miss H. Leavitt, Assistant, . . . . .	200 00	
	<hr/>	550 00

PRIMARY No. 5.

Miss M. E. Kingsley, Principal, . . . . .	\$262 50	
Miss A. L. Kingsley, Assistant, . . . . .	237 50	
Miss C. Adams, Assistant, . . . . .	50 00	
	<hr/>	550 00

PRIMARY No. 6.

Miss Mary E. Wellman, . . . . .	\$350 00	
	<hr/>	350 00

FUEL FOR SCHOOLS.

APPROPRIATION, . . \$1,200 00

BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

J. M. Aiken, 65 baskets charcoal, . . . . .	\$32 50	
Emery Willard, 22 tons coal, . . . . .	264 00	
	<hr/>	296 50

HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, & No. 1.

J. M. Aiken, 40 baskets charcoal, . . . . .	\$20 00	
Emery Willard, 12 tons coal, . . . . .	144 00	
	<hr/>	164 00

PRIMARY No. 2.

Emery Willard, 11 tons coal, . . . . .	\$134 50	
J. M. Aiken, 25 baskets charcoal, . . . . .	12 50	
	<hr/>	147 00

Amount carried forward, . . . . \$8,547 50



Amount brought forward, . . . \$8,547 50

PRIMARY No. 3.

Emery Willard, 8 tons coal, . . .	\$101 00	
J. M. Aiken, 25 baskets charcoal, . .	12 50	
	<hr/>	113 50

HIGH SCHOOL, & PRIMARY No. 4.

Emery Willard, 20 tons coal, . . .	\$245 00	
J. M. Aiken, 66 baskets charcoal, . .	33 00	
	<hr/>	278 00

PRIMARY No. 5.

Emery Willard, 7 tons coal, . . .	\$84 00	
J. M. Aiken, 29 baskets charcoal, . .	14 50	
	<hr/>	98 50

PRIMARY No. 6.

Emery Willard, 9 tons coal, . . .	\$115 50	
J. M. Aiken, 23 baskets charcoal, . .	11 50	
	<hr/>	127 00

Total, . . . . .	\$9,164 50
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TWENTY-NINTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
Town of Brighton,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 1, 1867.



BOSTON:  
CHARLES H. CROSBY, PRINTER,  
Nos. 13 & 46 WATER STREET.  
1867.







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# REPORT.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON :

The School Committee respectfully submit their Twenty-ninth Annual Report.

## SCHOOL-HOUSES.

We have devoted no little time and care to the seven school-houses belonging to the town. In addition to our individual attention to them during the entire year, at the close of the Summer Term, your Committee, together, visited and thoroughly examined every one of them, and ordered such repairs and alterations as were necessary, so that the property of the town should not suffer by neglect, nor the schools be interrupted during term time. Our observation convinces us that our teachers are worthy of commendation for their care of the town's school property. We have given such special attention to the means of warming these buildings, that there has been scarcely an interruption to the schools from this cause.

During the year, several of our school-houses have been broken into at night, the books torn and scattered, and the furniture mutilated. In one instance, an unsuccessful attempt was made to fire the High School building. For the conviction of the perpetrators of these crimes, we offered a reward of one hundred dollars ; but as yet they have not been brought to justice.

Although our school-houses are far from perfect, yet, excepting the High School building, they are very well adapted to the use for which they were erected. An appropriation of fifteen



hundred dollars was made by the town to finish the second story of School-house No. 6. Accordingly, the Committee opened negotiations with a builder to do the work. But it would have been impossible to continue the sessions of Primary No. 6, in the room below, while carpenters were at work directly over their heads. It became a necessity, therefore, to delay the completion of the second story until the long vacation following the Summer Term. When that period was reached, a further delay became advisable. The overcrowded state of our Grammar Schools induced the teachers to make the most earnest efforts to fit the largest possible number of their scholars to enter the High School.

To accomplish this purpose, they met and drilled their classes, in hours additional to those occupied by the regular sessions. This accounts for the fact that about forty new scholars were admitted to the High School at the last annual examination. Only a few of the former members of the school retired, and, therefore, additional accommodations for the new class became indispensable. Besides, there were already recitations enough to occupy the entire time of the Principal and Assistant. Another Assistant must therefore be provided. But there was only one small recitation-room, and, consequently, no place in which a second Assistant could hear classes. We were compelled, therefore, to add another recitation-room, and decided to delay the completion of Primary No. 6, believing that the large number promoted from the Grammar Schools would leave them room enough for the year, without the new school contemplated. An addition was made to the High School building, at an expense of about one-half the sum appropriated for the completion of No. 6, and it is regarded as a decided and long-needed improvement to our High School building.

We were mistaken, however, in our expectation that there would be room enough in the Grammar Schools. Both are full, and the Harvard has been uncomfortably crowded. Unless



there shall be an unlooked-for diminution of attendance, some additional accommodations must be furnished. There is little doubt that the room in No. 6 will be needed next year, and your Committee recommend that the appropriation for that object be continued.

It has been proposed, and warmly urged in the meetings of the Committee, that the requisitions for admission to the High School be so altered as to continue the scholars another year in the Grammar Schools; and that at the next annual examination not more than six of the best scholars in the Grammar Schools should be admitted to the High. Should the Committee adopt this proposition, not only will the room in No. 6 be needed, but, in the following year, at least one new Grammar School-house must be erected.

### PRESENTATIONS.

On the resignation of Miss ROSA A. ROBERTS, Principal of Primary No. 1, in February last, the parents of her scholars presented her with a silver tea-service.

J. P. C. WINSHIP, Esq., completed and occupied a tasteful residence in June last. To congratulate him on entering his new home, as a token of their regard for him personally, and of their appreciation of his earnest and effective service on the School Committee for consecutive years, the teachers and pupils of our public schools surprised him with the presentation of an elegant mantel-clock. Subsequently, Mr. Winship opened his new house, and spread a collation, and received the pupils of the schools.

The members of the Bennett Grammar School surprised their justly esteemed Principal, Mr. W. A. P. WILLARD, at his Tin Wedding, December 28, by the presentation of a silver cake-basket. These demonstrations are worthy of record, as evidences of the kindly feelings existing between pupils, teachers, and Committee-men.



## MUSIC.

At the earnest solicitation of several prominent citizens, Mr. C. E. WHITING has been employed to give instruction in vocal music to our High and Grammar Schools. He has given them each one lesson a week, with the most satisfactory results. The attainments made, and the interest awakened in the science of music, prove Mr. Whiting to be an earnest and efficient teacher of vocal music, and make it clear that this branch of instruction should be continued in our schools. We are glad to be able to state that the introduction of Mr. Whiting's instructions into these schools has been, so far as we know, unanimously approved.

## DISCIPLINE.

We have steadily opposed the indiscreet and excessive use of the rod. We have directed our teachers never to resort to it until all other means had failed. But we know, from years of experience, that the total abolition of corporal punishment, or the decision that it should never be applied to girls, would be fatal to the orderly government of our schools. We know that in the past, girls have required it nearly as often as boys. There may be a millennial age approaching, in which schools may be successfully governed without the rod, but that age has not yet arrived, nor are the signs of its immediate approach very clear and bright. It has been very truly observed,—and we commend the words to the candid consideration of our fellow-citizens,—“There are in schools two classes of children, —those who are governed at home, and those who have their own way at home, whether a right or a wrong way. In regard to children who are governed by their parents, and who are sent to school with parental instructions to obey the rules, there is seldom any occasion for discipline. For such, moral suasion is sufficient. Such children are a law unto themselves.



“In regard to children who are under no paternal government, and who go to the school-room, knowing that a disobedience of its rules will not be censured at home, the assurance coming from those who know, is, that the government of such children in schools will be very difficult; that force will frequently be necessary; and that, as a final resort, *either* the rod must come into requisition, *or* the refractory boy or girl be expelled. And the law of love says: Never make a bad boy worse, by turning him out upon the street to learn how to steal, and to become a pest to the community, and a curse to himself, if a use of the rod, within the limits of safety to his person, can bring him into subjection. This, we repeat, is the law of love.

“But is not the spectacle of a master striking a boy, and especially a girl, a humiliating spectacle? It is. It was an humiliating spectacle that we witnessed a few weeks since, when we saw a strong policeman leading through the streets, against her will, a woman in a state of intoxication. But the humiliation was in the conduct of the woman, which made necessary the action of the officer. In the other case, the humiliation is in the thoroughly insubordinate spirit and conduct of the scholar, driving the teacher to the painful extremity.”\*

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Our Primary Schools have been quietly, uninterruptedly and successfully pursuing their important work for another year. There is nothing very marked in their history for the last twelve months, to distinguish it from their record for the last two years.

PRIMARY NO. 1 has had a change of teachers during the year. Miss ROSA A. ROBERTS was Principal from the fall of

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\* See *Massachusetts Teacher*, January, 1867, p. 20. Article published at request of Boston schoolmasters.



1862 to the time of her resignation, in February, 1866. Miss Roberts took the school in a confused and chaotic state, and, in a few weeks, brought it to perfect order, and when the school year closed, her school was found second to none in town. She continued successful to the close of her connection with the school. We accepted her resignation with much regret, and apprehension that the school would retrograde after her separation from it. Miss MARY B. MONTGOMERY, who had been the Assistant Teacher during nearly the entire period that Miss Roberts had been at the head of the school, assumed the position of Principal, and Miss ALICE A. SWETT that of Assistant, at the beginning of the Spring and Summer Term. Under their direction the school has continued to maintain its high position.

PRIMARY No. 2 has continued during the year under the instruction of Miss EMMA F. HOLMES in the first department, and Miss HARRIET A. HENDERSON in the second. Both of them have faithfully discharged their duties. The examinations have shown Miss Holmes to be an educated and competent teacher, and Miss Henderson, by nature and culture, to be remarkably adapted to interest the youngest pupils, as she adroitly introduces them to the paths of education. In former years some of the brightest scholars in town have come out of this school, and there are diamonds there now, but the majority are yet so entirely in the rough, that the sparkle and flash have not yet appeared. The large majority of the scholars are of foreign parentage, — several of the boys drive cattle, and are absent two days every week, — and cases of insubordination are too frequent. This is applicable to the first more than to the second department. Under their obstacles, the teachers are deserving of especial consideration for their patient and self-consuming toil.

PRIMARY No. 3. For a considerable portion of the year the number of scholars in attendance on this school has exceeded the number of seats; and, since the size of the room will not



admit of more seats, a portion of the recitation settees have been occupied. To reduce the numbers, two classes, — instead of one, as usual, — were promoted to the Grammar School at the beginning of the Fall Term. But new scholars enough entered to entirely fill the room. It is always a pleasure to visit this school. The evidences that the scholars are under good training at home and at school, are prominent and gratifying. With the exception of a few weeks of illness, during which the school was under the care of her sister, Miss ELLEN HARRIS has been the teacher, and continued to deserve the repetition of the commendations which the Committee have awarded to her, in their reports every year since she has been connected with the school.

PRIMARY No. 4. A slow but constant improvement has characterized this school during the year. It has labored under many difficulties, not unlike those noticed in the first department of No. 2. It has been annoyed by a few troublesome cases of insubordination. But notwithstanding its obstacles it has accomplished a good work, and is now in a better condition than for several preceding years. It has had Mrs. MARY C. ALEXANDER for Principal, an accomplished and laborious instructress, who brings to her work the fruits of years of practical experience as a teacher. She has governed judiciously, and borne the toils and trials of her situation patiently, and deserves the esteem and gratitude of those for whom she has labored and endured. Miss H. A. LEAVITT filled the place of Assistant, with the success of former years, until the beginning of the Fall Term, when she was transferred to the charge of the third department in the Bennett Grammar School. Miss EMMA LOUISA WAUGH assumed the place of Assistant when Miss Leavitt retired, and is laboring with prospects of success.

PRIMARY No. 5. If we were asked to prepare a motto appropriately to express the prominent characteristics of No. 5, it would be, Neatness, Order, Industry. Its numbers are large, and the home influences of the pupils by no means alike.



But assembled in their school, they appear pervaded by one spirit, controlled by the influence of the place and their instructors. The examinations have been highly creditable to the scholars and to their teachers, — Miss ANNA L. KINGSLEY, Principal, and Miss CHARLOTTE ADAMS, Assistant. It is worthy of especial mention, as evincing the efficiency of these teachers, that they have governed the large number of pupils under their care through the year, with scarcely a call for the interposition of the Committee.

PRIMARY No. 6 is distinguished from the other Primaries by the fact that it is composed almost, without an exception, of American children. The school deserves all the popularity it has acquired, and the Committee have nothing but words of commendation for its teacher, Miss MARY E. WELLMAN.

The teachers of our Primaries, for the year, have been as follows : —

*Primary No. 1.* — Miss ROSA A. ROBERTS, and Miss MARY B. MONTGOMERY, *Principals in Course*. Miss MARY B. MONTGOMERY and Miss ALICE A. SWETT, *Assistants in Course*.

*Primary No. 2.* — Miss EMMA F. HOLMES, *Principal*. Miss HARRIET A. HENDERSON, *Assistant, Second Department*.

*Primary No. 3.* — Miss ELLEN HARRIS.

*Primary No. 4.* — Mrs. MARY C. ALEXANDER, *Principal*. Miss H. A. LEAVITT, and Miss EMMA LOUISA WAUGH, *Assistants in Course*.

*Primary No. 5.* — Miss ANNA L. KINGSLEY, *Principal*. Miss CHARLOTTE ADAMS, *Assistant*.

*Primary No. 6.* — Miss MARY E. WELLMAN.



# BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Principal and Teacher, First Department, Mr. W. A. P. WILLARD.*

*Assistant, First Department, Miss ELIZA S. WILLIAMS.*

*Assistant, Second Department, Miss SARAH E. WAUGH.*

*Assistants, Third Department, Miss SARAH E. GILMAN, and Miss H. A. LEAVITT.*

Mr. WILLARD assumed the office of Principal of this school under difficult circumstances. A few parents had openly taken the position that their children should not be punished in the school. The pupils were infected with the idea that the teacher would not dare to inflict chastisement for any offence, and some of them were disposed to be insubordinate. On the enforcement of discipline by the teacher, one or two parents did enter the school-room and address Mr. Willard with angry and threatening words. But the Principal calmly explained, and showed them their mistake; and the Committee firmly resolved to sustain the teacher, and the spirit of insubordination was soon quelled. The school has moved on its course for the past year pleasantly and successfully, and has gained for itself and its Principal the confidence and commendation of the community. Some of the most troublesome elements have left it, and there has come into it a class of scholars, whose good characters and refined manners are leavening the whole body. One obstacle to the progress of the First Department, has arisen from the fact that the acquirements of the scholars have prevented their being profitably classified according to the prescribed studies. We have been obliged to promote pupils from the lower departments sooner than we would, to make room for scholars there brought from the Primaries to relieve them of their too great numbers. Extra classes were therefore formed in Mr. Willard's department, and Miss Williams employed to assist him until the close of the Summer Term, when she was transferred to the High School. By their united instructions, and by extra efforts, a large class was fitted to pass an examination and enter the High School, in September.



We regard Mr. Willard as an excellent Principal and Teacher, and the work he has accomplished as satisfactory. He is, at present, taking the whole care of his department, having no assistant; and, to his other labors, is added the care of half-a-dozen boys, who, though not qualified in their studies for his room, were too insubordinate for the female teachers in the lower departments; and, besides these, about as many more older scholars, who have been out of school for months, have returned for the winter, who wish and ought to pursue a course of studies somewhat varied from that of the regular classes. With much patience and tact, the Principal is successfully laboring for the good of all, and holding the diverse elements of the school, and the varied duties of his position, well in hand.

It is a most fortunate thing for this school that we have been able, for a succession of years, to retain in the Second Department the same peculiarly-gifted and laborious teacher, Miss SARAH E. WAUGH. She has contended with many and annoying difficulties; but has pursued her labors, for another year, with unabated success.

Miss SARAH E. GILMAN, of the Third Department, tendered her resignation in July last. This was a matter, to us, of profound regret; and had not her decision been final, we should have made strenuous efforts to retain her. Not in any words of common or official courtesy, but most heartily, we record our appreciation of Miss Gilman's personal worth, and more than ordinary qualifications as a teacher and disciplinarian. We prized her as a treasure while connected with the school, and follow her with our best wishes.

To fill the vacancy occasioned by Miss Gilman's resignation, we appointed Miss H. A. LEAVITT, who had, for some time, most satisfactorily occupied the place of Assistant in Primary No. 4. We elected her because of our high appreciation of her qualifications to fill this important post. She entered upon her duties immediately, and is pursuing them with every prospect of success.



A few parents manifest an interest in the school, and the effects show how great an improvement might be made if this parental interest should only become general.

### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Principal*, Mr. GUILFORD D. BIGELOW.

*First Assistant*, Miss ELLEN CHILD.

*Second Assistant*, Miss CARRIE F. COLBY.

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During the first half of the year, this school suffered from being crowded beyond the capacity of the room; and, though a large class was promoted to the High School, their places were more than filled by scholars from the Primaries at the beginning of the Fall Term. To meet this emergency, the second recitation-room, which had not hitherto been used, was furnished, and Miss C. F. COLBY appointed a Second Assistant.

The discipline and order of the school has been maintained during the year at the high standard which has been commended in former reports. Its attainments in vocal music have not been excelled in any of our schools. The public examinations and exhibitions, which it has held, have called out a crowded attendance, and hearty and deserved praise. The class from it admitted to the High School, on the whole, passed the best examination of any we have examined from it heretofore. Great labor and pains, additional to the regular sessions, had evidently been bestowed upon it. With each successive year, the examinations show the increasing thought, and study, and ability which the Principal brings to his work. The classes under the care of the Assistants have appeared well, and we feel satisfied that the teachers have labored faithfully. Indeed, we could hardly expect as much, when we consider how crowded the school has been. Something ought to be done within the year to relieve it, by decreasing the number of its attendants. The size of the room is insufficient, nor is it otherwise adapted to so large a number.



## HIGH SCHOOL.

*Principal, Mr. W. H. MERRITT, A.M.*

*First Assistant, Miss ANNA J. GEORGE.*

*Second Assistant, Miss ELIZA S. WILLIAMS.*

Our High School has pursued its course through the year with unusual success. The last Annual Report said, "The school is deficient in declamation, composition, music, calisthenics, and drawing." We have made special efforts to improve the school in all these respects. The teachers have cordially co-operated with us, and encouraging results have been attained. Literary exercises were interspersed with the recitations of the examination at the close of the Spring Term, and some very good speaking, composition and music were presented. These exercises attracted a large audience of parents and friends of the school. Thus one important end was gained. One great obstacle to the prosperity of the school, has been the almost utter lack of parental interest. Very few parents ever visited the school, or attended the examinations. But this exhibition drew them to the school-room, and by its pleasing effect, favorably impressed them with the efficiency and value of the privileges of our High School. The selections for speaking and reading were marked by refined taste, and agreeably spiced with wit and humor. Mr. Whiting presented a practical illustration of his method of teaching vocal music; and the performance of the pupils in this exercise, both when he led them and when they sang without him, showed that he had succeeded in awakening an interest in this science, and reflected great credit on his instructions.

In a preceding portion of this Report, which relates to "School-houses," we have called attention to the alterations made in the High School building, and to the fact that, with the beginning of the Fall Term, a second Assistant Teacher was employed. These alterations have proved to be wise; for they have enabled the school to pursue its course without confusion or hinderance, though nearly doubled in numbers.



At the last examination the recitations were all of a high order, and showed that teachers and scholars had been faithfully at work. Miss WILLIAMS, the Second Assistant, gave us an illustration of her method of teaching drawing, and, with the few modifications which we suggested, we believe it will be a benefit to all the scholars, and develop those who have a special talent in this direction.

The Principal is a thorough scholar, and warmly interested in the intellectual and moral culture of his pupils, and in everything that pertains to the progress of his school.

The long-continued connection of the First Assistant with the school, her unwearied labors for its good, her eminent abilities as a teacher, and her personal worth, have won for her a large place in the esteem and respect of her associate teachers, her pupils, the Committee, and the community generally.

It is a sufficient commendation of the Second Assistant, that our acquaintance with her while she taught temporarily in each of our Grammar Schools, to meet emergencies, made us unanimous in electing her to fill the position she now occupies.

We beg leave to call attention again to that portion of our former reports—especially to that portion of last year's report—which speaks of the endowment of scholarships in Harvard College, for the best scholars in our High School who may desire, but be unable otherwise to pursue a collegiate course. With each succeeding year we are more and more impressed with its importance; and as conservators of the educational interests of the town, we feel constrained once more urgently to present it to the candid and common-sense consideration of our fellow-citizens.

### SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The number of children in town, between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the first day of May last by the Assessors, according to law, was 907. Boys, 465. Girls, 442. Other statistical information may be found in the table appended to this Report.



## APPROPRIATIONS.

The Committee recommend that the sum of \$13,200 be appropriated by the town, for teachers' wages, fuel, and incidental expenses of the schools for the ensuing year.

Respectfully, in behalf of the School Committee,

RALPH H. BOWLES, *Chairman.*

RALPH H. BOWLES,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
J. P. C. WINSHIP,		
C. H. B. BRECK,		

BRIGHTON, February 1, 1867.



# COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

## IN

# HIGH SCHOOL.

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### FOURTH CLASS.—First Year.

*Arithmetic*.—Greenleaf's Common School (continued).

*History of the United States*.—Quackenbos's (begun).

*English Grammar*.—(S. S. Green's Parsing and Analysis.)

### THIRD CLASS.—Second Year.

*Arithmetic*.—Greenleaf's Common School (completed).

*Algebra*.—Greenleaf's Elementary.

*Book Keeping*.—Mayhew's System.

*General History*.—(Worcester's Introductory—Feudal System, Crusades, England, France.)

*Natural Philosophy*.—Quackenbos's.

*French*.—Robertsonian System; Earnst's Series; Modern Publication.

### SECOND CLASS.—Third Year.

*Algebra*.—Greenleaf's Elementary (completed).

*Geometry*.—Introduction to Geometry, and Science of Form.

*General History, Ancient*.—Worcester's.

*Physiology*.

*Zoölogy*.—Ware and Smellie's Philosophy of Natural History.

*Botany*.—Gray's,—How Plants Grow.

*French*.—Continuation of Second Year's Course of Study.



**FIRST CLASS.—Fourth Year.**

*Mathematics.*—Geometry.

*Rhetoric.*—Quackenbos's.

*Chemistry.*—Youman's.

*Astronomy.*

*French.*—Continuation of Third Year's Course of Study.

*Constitution of the United States.*—Sheppard's Text-book.

**CLASSICAL COURSE.\***

*First Year.*—Latin Grammar, Harkness'; Latin Reader, Harkness'.

*Second Year.*—Cæsar, Andrews' or Hanson's; Greek Grammar, Sophocles'; Greek Lessons, Sophocles'.

*Third Year.*—Virgil; Anabasis, Crosby's.

*Fourth Year.*—Cicero, Hanson's or Folsom's; Iliad (three books); Ancient Geography.

**GENERAL EXERCISES.**

*First Year.*—Writing; Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writing Books.

*Through the Course.*—Reading, Spelling, Composition, and Declamation and Drawing.

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\* The Classical Course is entirely optional; what branches of study those pursuing it may give up, must be determined by the circumstances of each scholar.



## CALENDAR.

### THE SCHOOL YEAR

Is divided into three terms. These terms, with their intervening vacations, begin and end as follows :—

1. *Spring and Summer Term*—Twenty Weeks.  
 Begins—1867, First Monday (4th day) in March.  
 [ *Recess* : One week in May. The week in which the  
       Anniversaries of various religious and benevolent  
       Societies are held in Boston.  
 Ends—1867, Fourth Monday (22d day) in July.
2. *The Summer Vacation*—Six Weeks.  
 Begins—1867, Fourth Monday (22d day) in July.  
 Ends—1867, First Monday (2d day) in September.
3. *The Autumn Term*—Twelve Weeks.  
 Begins—1867, First Monday (2d day) in September.  
 Ends—1867, Last Monday (25th day) in November.
4. *The Autumn Vacation*—One Week.  
 Begins—1867, Last Monday (25th day) in November.  
 Ends—1867, First Monday (2d day) in December.
5. *The Winter Term*—Twelve Weeks.  
 Begins—1867, First Monday (2d day) in December.  
 Ends—1868, Last Monday (24th day) in February.

### HOLIDAYS.

The following days are prescribed holidays :—

All Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

New-Year's Day.

Washington's Birthday.

Fast Day.

May Day.

June 17th.

Independence Day.

Harvard College Commencement Day (For High School  
       only).

Thanksgiving.

Christmas.



# STATISTICAL TABLE.

SCHOOL.	SPRING & SUM. TERM.				FALL TERM.				WINTER TERM.			THE WHOLE YEAR.				Per cent. of Attendance.
	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Examination.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Examination.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging Jan. 1st, 1867.	Average Attendance.	Average at Examination.	Average Attendance.	Average Registered.	Av. belonging Jan. 1, 1867.	
High School . . . . .	58	47	43	46	76	73	68	65	69	69	60	56	57	68	67	.84
Bennett Grammar, 1st Department . . . . .	63	60	51	50	40	40	38	36	56	55	51	45	46	53	50	.87
Bennett Grammar, 2d Department . . . . .	41	37	36	34	51	50	48	45	52	52	47	45	42	48	46	.87
Bennett Grammar, 3d Department . . . . .	51	50	43	43	46	45	39	41	46	45	40	42	41	47	46	.87
All Departments . . . . .	155	147	130	127	137	135	125	122	154	152	138	132	129	148	142	.87
Harvard Grammar . . . . .	117	80	76	79	117	106	95	88	99	99	86	86	85	111	95	.77
Primary I. . . . .	115	98	80	94	99	80	75	78	75	75	70	78	81	96	84	.85
Primary II., 1st Department . . . . .	47	46	43	37	54	49	46	42	50	49	43	42	40	50	48	.80
Primary II., 2d Department . . . . .	81	77	70	62	68	66	61	58	60	59	50	50	57	69	67	.85
Both Departments . . . . .	128	123	113	99	122	115	107	100	110	108	93	92	97	119	115	.82
Primary III. . . . .	83	76	66	54	60	55	43	46	52	51	33	55	45	65	61	.69
Primary IV. . . . .	74	97	91	85	79	90	67	71	91	91	59	76	71	82	90	.87
Primary V. . . . .	111	106	87	85	105	104	88	82	105	105	80	87	82	107	105	.77
Primary VI. . . . .	61	58	54	43	50	47	46	42	46	46	37	50	40	53	51	.78
Nine Schools . . . . .	902	832	740	712	845	805	714	694	801	796	656	712	687	849	810	.81



## EXPENDITURES.

## SALARIES FOR TEACHERS.

APPROPRIATION . . . \$9,500 00

## HIGH SCHOOL.

W. H. Merritt, Principal	.	.	.	.	\$1,400 00	
Miss A. J. George, Assistant	.	.	.	.	525 00	
Miss E. W. Williams	.	.	.	.	130 00	
						<u>\$2,055 00</u>

## BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

W. A. P. Willard, Principal	.	.	.	.	\$1,200 00	
Miss S. E. Waugh, Assistant	.	.	.	.	450 00	
Miss S. E. Gilman, Assistant	.	.	.	.	225 00	
Miss E. W. Williams	.	.	.	.	285 00	
Miss H. Leavitt	.	.	.	.	112 50	
						<u>2,272 50</u>

## HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

G. D. Bigelow, Principal	.	.	.	.	\$1,200 00	
Miss Mary F. Child, Assistant	.	.	.	.	450 00	
Miss C. L. Colby	.	.	.	.	140 00	
						<u>1,790 00</u>

## PRIMARY No. 1.

Miss M. B. Monto, Principal	.	.	.	.	\$340 00	
Miss A. Sweet	.	.	.	.	165 00	
Miss R. A. Roberts	.	.	.	.	95 00	
						<u>600 00</u>

## PRIMARY No. 2.

Miss E. Holmes, Principal	.	.	.	.	\$380 00	
Miss H. A. Henderson, Assistant	.	.	.	.	300 00	
						<u>680 00</u>

## PRIMARY No. 3.

Miss Ellen Harris	.	.	.	.	\$380 00	
						<u>380 00</u>

## PRIMARY No. 4.

Mrs. Alexander, Principal	.	.	.	.	\$380 00	
Miss H. Leavitt, Assistant	.	.	.	.	222 50	
Miss Emma Louisa Waugh	.	.	.	.	55 00	
						<u>657 50</u>

## PRIMARY No. 5.

Miss Anna Kingsley, Principal	.	.	.	.	\$380 00	
Miss C. Adams, Assistant	.	.	.	.	220 00	
						<u>600 00</u>

Amount carried forward . . . \$9,035 00



Amount brought forward . . . \$9,035 00

PRIMARY No. 6.

Miss Mary E. Wellman . . .	\$380 00	
	<hr/>	380 00

FUEL FOR SCHOOLS.

APPROPRIATION . . . \$1,200 00.

BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

J. M. Aiken, forty-five baskets charcoal . .	\$22 50	
E. Willard, twenty tons coal . . .	200 00	
	<hr/>	222 50

HARVARD GRAMMAR, SCHOOL, & No. 1.

J. M. Aiken, forty-five baskets charcoal . .	\$22 50	
E. Willard, sixteen tons coal . . .	180 00	
	<hr/>	202 50

PRIMARY No. 2.

J. M. Aiken, twenty-five baskets charcoal . .	\$12 50	
E. Willard, eleven tons coal . . .	110 00	
	<hr/>	122 50

PRIMARY No. 3.

J. M. Aiken, twenty-one baskets charcoal . .	\$10 50	
E. Willard, four tons coal . . .	40 00	
	<hr/>	50 50

HIGH SCHOOL & PRIMARY No. 4.

J. M. Aiken, seventy-two baskets charcoal . .	\$36 00	
E. Willard, twenty-two tons coal . . .	220 00	
	<hr/>	256 00

PRIMARY No. 5.

J. M. Aiken, thirty-two baskets charcoal . .	\$16 00	
E. Willard, seven tons coal . . .	70 00	
	<hr/>	86 00

PRIMARY No. 6.

J. M. Aiken, ten baskets charcoal . . .	\$5 00	
E. Willard, eleven tons coal . . .	114 00	
	<hr/>	119 00

Total . . . . .		<hr/>	\$10,474 00
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THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING FEB. 1, 1868.



BOSTON:  
ROCKWELL & ROLLINS, PRINTERS,  
122 WASHINGTON STREET.  
1868.







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Rev. F. A. Whitney, Mar. 26, 1868.

24720



# REPORT.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON:

The School Committee herewith respectfully submit their thirtieth annual report.

In entering upon our work so many important items present themselves in reference to the educational interests of the town, in consequence of severe losses by fire and the erection of new school-houses, that it may be necessary for us to present a somewhat lengthy Report, that the citizens may fully understand all that has transpired during the past year.

The pleasant relations, that have existed in the Board of Committee for a number of years past, justify the expression of regret at changes which so frequently occur. The Rev. Ralph H. Bowles, whose term of office expired with his removal to another town, had served several years and was interested much in his work and in the scholars. He served the town well, and his retirement from the Board was regretted. He was succeeded in office by Henry Baldwin, Esq., who was unanimously elected for three years at the regular meeting in March last.

The most important matter to the Committee at the commencement of the year was the condition of the High School and its wants. After much consideration it was decided that in order to advance the grade of the school, the qualifications for admission should be raised. Accordingly the Grammar School scholars were instructed that in order to gain admission, they must pass a strict examination and correctly



answer seventy-five per cent. of the questions proposed at the annual examination, or continue in their respective schools another year.

The result was that forty pupils from our Grammar Schools, ambitious of a position in the new High School edifice to be erected, and stimulated by their energetic Principals, presented themselves at the appointed examination. Of these thirty-three were approved and entered the High School.

#### LOSS OF SCHOOL-HOUSES BY FIRE.

In common with so many other towns and cities, we have suffered the past year from incendiary fires. During the night of the 20th of March, our citizens were alarmed by the continuous ringing of bells announcing several fires in quick succession. The building occupied by the High School and Primary No. 4, together with Primary school-house No. 5, were burned to the ground with all their furniture, books, philosophical apparatus and pictures, except the piano belonging to the High School, which was saved in a damaged condition.

The High School building was erected in 1856, and first occupied on the 1st of September of the same year. During the summer vacation in 1866, a second recitation room was built in the rear, to meet the wants of additional scholars. The building at the time of the fire was in good condition throughout.

Primary school-house No. 5 was comparatively a new building, erected in 1860, and opened December 24th of the same year.

In consequence of the fire, two hundred and seventy-five scholars were to be provided with school-rooms. Your Committee succeeded in securing Union Hall at Union Square for the High School, the Town Hall for Primary No. 5, and the north-east room under the Town Hall for Primary No. 4.



Immediate application was made to several of the manufacturers of school furniture for desks and seats ; but none could be obtained in less than three weeks. As the room under the Town Hall could not be fitted immediately, Primary No. 4 was obliged to occupy a part of the Town Hall. These schools assembled at the places stated, on the 25th day of March, thus losing only two days and a half.

#### NEW BUILDINGS.

The Selectmen considered it to be unnecessary to call a town meeting in reference to the loss sustained by the fire, before the regular April meeting approaching. The following articles were accordingly inserted in the warrant for that meeting : —

Art. 5.— “ To see what action the town will take in relation to providing suitable accommodations for the High School, and Primaries Nos. 4 and 5, and to make the necessary appropriations therefor.”

Art. 6.— “ To make the necessary appropriations for furnishing the High School and Primaries Nos. 4 and 5.”

The meeting was held April 1st, with the following results : —

“ Voted that a Committee of three be chosen, who, in conjunction with the School Committee, shall take into consideration the whole subject matter of Article 4 of the warrant, and report to the town at its adjourned meeting.”

Messrs. John W. Hollis, Jacob F. Taylor, and Life Baldwin, were appointed on that Committee.

Voted, that twenty-five hundred dollars be raised and appropriated to furnish materials and philosophical apparatus, and for any other incidental expenses which may arise in relation to furnishing the High School and Primaries Nos. 4 and 5, and in providing suitable accommodations for said schools.



Meetings of the joint Committee were held, and the School Committee submitted plans for the school-houses required, which were accepted.

Friday evening, April 5, the adjourned town meeting was held, when the report of the Committee was submitted; whereupon an animated discussion took place as to the proper site for the respective school-houses. The result of the meeting was as follows:—

Voted, that the town proceed to build a school-house two stories in height, for Primary School No. 5, on Union Street, where the former school-house stood, opposite the head of Shepard Street.

Voted, that the High School house be a two-story building capable of accommodating two primary schools, in addition to the High School.

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be authorized to borrow a sum of money not exceeding \$14,000, which, together with the insurance received on the school buildings recently burned, amounting to \$7,000, shall be appropriated to carry out the preceding votes in regard to rebuilding school-houses for the High School and Primaries Nos. 4 and 5.

Voted, that a Committee be chosen to superintend the building of said school-houses.

Voted, that the Committee shall consist of five, and that they shall be chosen by nomination at large.

Messrs. Granville Fuller, Jacob F. Taylor, W. C. Allen, J. P. C. Winship, and George H. Brooks, were chosen such Committee.

Voted, that the remaining members of the School Committee, namely, Henry Baldwin, and C. H. B. Breck, be added to the Committee.

Many meetings of the Building Committee were held, and plans adopted, which were submitted to Geo. F. Fuller, architect, who prepared working plans and specifications, which were presented to several builders. The proposals



of Joseph C. Wadleigh, our townsman, being the lowest, were with pleasure accepted.

*New Primary Building, No. 5.*

This building was finished in August, and on the 11th of September occupied by scholars under the charge of Miss Charlotte Adams and Miss Emma P. Dana. The building is of two stories, built on the old foundation, having two school-rooms, with single desks for 128 scholars. We thus secure the advantage of having but one teacher in a room, and avoid the inconvenience of having classes passing to and fro from recitation rooms. The desks were furnished by W. O. Haskell, and the furnace by Geo. Walker & Co., proprietors of the famous Lawson Furnace.

*High School Building.*

The citizens may well be proud of this building which crowns the summit of one of the highest eminences of this town, completed with such care under the superintendence of the Building Committee, an honor to the town, an advantage to the rising generation, and a blessing to the nation. The noblest service of man is the rearing of youth so that they shall be fitted to advance Christian civilization. And certainly many of the grandest results attained in the progress of the country are attributable to our system of common-school education. Our main purpose in the plan of this building was to have the lower story divided into two equal-sized rooms, instead of one large room as before; to have the second floor used for the High School, with suitable recitation rooms provided with cases for books and philosophical apparatus; and the whole of the third story for an exhibition room. The following is a description of the building, by the architect, Geo. F. Fuller, who entered College in 1852 from our High School.

The building is 37 ft. by 56 ft., with two wings, each 12 ft.



by 22 ft. It belongs to the French style of architecture, which, by its peculiar form of roof, affords a fine hall in the third story, at a trifling additional expense. The exterior is finished with a bracketed cornice and moulded caps to the windows. The interior is finished with chestnut, relieved by black walnut, which, besides having a handsome appearance, is not as easily marred as painted finish. Each story is 12 ft. high; and the entries and stairways are in the wings, thus leaving the entire main building to the school-rooms, and securing light on three sides of each room. The first story contains two Primary School rooms, each 28 ft. by 36 ft. The second story contains the High School room, 36 ft. by 38½ ft., a recitation room 17 ft. by 20 ft., and a philosophical room 17 ft. by 15½ ft. These ante-rooms also have closets and cases for the philosophical apparatus, and for a library. The hall in the third story is 35 ft. by 56 ft., well lighted, and is intended for the exhibitions of the school. The entire building is warmed by steam, which gives a much more healthy atmosphere than dry furnace or stove heat. This mode of heating is new in this town, but has been tried elsewhere in public and private buildings, and found to be satisfactory and economical.

#### STEAM APPARATUS.

After much deliberation and with some hesitation, your Committee in conjunction with the Building Committee, decided to heat the new High School building by steam. The advantages promised were so numerous, and the ultimate economy seemed so apparent, that such course was deemed advisable. Accordingly a contract, fully protecting the interests of the town was made with Charles Stone for the introduction of his Steam Heating Apparatus, at a cost which to the Committee appeared quite low. Since the opening of the school, the expectations of the most sanguine in relation to it have been realized. The quantity of heat is sufficient, and its quality is of the best order; and we desire fully to



express our satisfaction with this important change in the method of heating the school. Next, a proper person must have charge of this admirable heating apparatus ; and we employed Mr. W. C. Johnston to superintend the heating of both the High, and Bennett Grammar Schools, and also to have the general care of the school-rooms. Thus far he has performed his responsible and quite difficult duties in a highly satisfactory manner, and we take great pleasure in commending him for his assiduity.

The Committee feel that the town were fortunate in the selection of the Building Committee for the new edifices. Their labors have been arduous and highly responsible. The town has derived much benefit from their experience ; and we are pleased to state that through their prudence the new school buildings have been constructed at a cost within the appropriation.

#### DEDICATION.

The Dedication of the High School building took place Tuesday, February 4, at 2 P. M. The services were held in the main Hall, which was filled with the scholars, citizens, and friends.

Prayer was offered by Rev. S. D. Clarke, followed by singing by the school under the charge of Mr. Whiting. The formal transfer of the keys of the building was then made in the following order : from the Building Committee, by its Chairman, Granville Fuller, to Edmund Rice, Chairman of the Selectmen, who in turn presented them to the Chairman of the School Committee, and by him they were delivered to W. H. Merritt, the Principal of the School. A response was made by William A. Fiske, son of Bela S. Fiske, in behalf of his school-mates.

Singing by the school followed these exercises, and the Chairman of the School Committee then called upon the following gentlemen, in the order of their names, who addressed the many present :



Henry Baldwin, of the School Committee, Rev. Frederic A. Whitney, Hon. Joseph Breck, Hon. Abner J. Phipps, Agent of the Mass. Board of Education, Life Baldwin, Wm. C. Strong, William Warren, Edmund Rice, Wm. Wirt Warren, Cornelius Walker, Dr. Augustus Mason, and Michael Norton. Letters were read from the following-named gentlemen, expressing regret at their inability to attend :

Josiah Rutter, of Waltham, John Ruggles, of Brookline, Rev. David T. Packard, and Rev. J. M. Finotti, of this place, and Wm. H. Baldwin, of Boston.

The exercises closed with the singing of a hymn written for the occasion by Miss Abby C. Rice of Wayland.

#### REPAIRS.

The principal items of expense under this head, apart from the erection of new buildings, have been incurred in painting the Bennett Grammar and Primary No. 2 school-houses, and in supplying furnaces for the Grammar Schools. It was considered, more than a year since, that the painting was essential, yet it was deferred until last summer, when longer delay would have been false economy. Several practical painters estimated upon the work, and the lowest bids were accepted ; giving Primary No. 2 to J. O. Tubbs, and the Bennett Grammar to George Daniels, both of this town.

Much attention was given to the subject of furnaces. Several experts examined the old furnaces, and the conclusion was reached that it would be much better to purchase new than to repair the old ones. The one in the Bennett Grammar school-house was injured severely by careless mechanics when the house was in process of erection, and was utterly worthless. The one in the Harvard Grammar was improperly set in an old brick form ; consequently it had rusted at the bottom and become cracked in the sides. Many furnaces were examined, and much inquiry made.

The Committee at last unanimously gave preference to the



Lawson Furnace, manufactured by Geo. W. Walker & Co., of Boston. Its advantages are many. By cunningly devised means, a great amount of radiating surface is gained ; and the practical and workmanlike manner in which each part is adjusted, elicits much praise. Both furnaces have proved equal if not superior to the favorable representations at first made. In the Bennett Grammar School House one Lawson Furnace is heating the whole building more satisfactorily than the brick and portable furnaces previously used.

We would urge upon the Town the necessity of either increasing the number of School Committee, or appointing for each school a citizen who shall have special oversight of the stoves and furnaces, and the general care of all that the building and its surroundings may need. The work of the Committee has naturally increased, and of late years, even the Prudential Committee Board has been abolished. The few now composing the School Committee cannot attend to all that is required of them, unless they sacrifice, in some measure, their regular business.

#### TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

A meeting of the teachers was called by the School Committee, for the purpose of establishing regular communications by which we could more fully understand the condition of the schools. We wished each teacher to make inquiries, report the wants of the several schools, offer suggestions, consider advisable changes, and discuss questions upon educational matters. The Chairman of the School Committee acted as Chairman, and G. D. Bigelow was elected Secretary.

Fifteen meetings of this character were held during the year, and much interest was manifested. Many questions were discussed upon general management and mental culture, and such interchange of sentiment was had as proved beneficial to the schools. The benefits arising from such



meetings are too evident to require explanation. We certainly hope they may be continued in the future.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

This subject has received so much attention of late, and has been so thoroughly discussed, that it seems hardly advisable to speak of it here; still it so seriously affects the question of discipline in our schools, that it may be well to bring it before the people. In a neighboring city, where the subject was under consideration, an able article appeared in a leading paper, from which the following is quoted:—

"The advocates for the immediate abolition of corporal punishment are all men who never kept school in their lives,—governors and clergymen, physicians and professors of zoölogy, men of kind hearts and impulsive feelings, but men wholly ignorant of practical teaching. When a Natural History professor comes down to a caucus and says, 'I have taught thirty years and never struck a blow,' it is as much as if the respected minister of the First Church of Cambridge were also to come and say, 'I, too, have taught thirty years, and have never yet whipped one of my congregation.' We do think that men holding such positions should be very careful how they add to the toils and anxieties of a profession far more wearing than their own, by such random and unmeaning assertions."

Undoubtedly three-fourths of the parents of our scholars punish, corporally, their children; and consequently many such children are with difficulty managed in school unless the *fear* of corporal punishment is brought to bear upon them. Generally the parent who inflicts such punishment is decidedly averse to having another person assume such authority; and some men, with philanthropic sighs, forgetting home inflictions decry corporal punishment as barbarous. A mother may say with high-toned resentment, "the idea that my child should be struck!" Her child may not need corporal punishment. The teacher who would strike the timid, sickly, shrinking



Olive is not fitted for her office ; yet the wilful Nero may need correction. In the State, our prisons are only built for the wrong-doers, and our enemies are conquered by a strong arm fitly represented on our State shield. So we, believing that quiet peace must be gained sometimes by the use of the sword, would adopt the motto of our State for our schools, simply substituting the gently reminding rod for the blood-thirsty sword, as better applicable to young people.

It should, however, be understood in these remarks, that corporal punishment is not advocated as a general rule. Would that it might be fully abolished ; yet this, at present, is deemed inadvisable. It should be held as the exception. In one or two of our schools, during the past year, it has been entirely abolished ; yet such schools are not distinguished for their order or brilliancy. In no school has it been severely dealt. There is a subtle power bestowed naturally, or *perhaps increased by culture*, on a number of our teachers, by which corporal punishment is lessened. A mesmeric influence, we may call this, underlying, in a greater or less degree, all attempts at assuming authority. They in whom it abounds, accomplish the most. Napoleon had it especially. Several of our generals during the late war gained much by it. So is it with our teachers. Good order and discipline — a determination on the part of the scholars to excel, and generally a successful accomplishment of all they undertake — are the results of it. The influence of a teacher in establishing correct deportment, imparting knowledge by a sympathetic force, and exciting the love and admiration of the pupils, is not attained wholly by study. The true teacher is endowed with a talent. The faculty of teaching is as intuitive as the god-like gift of the poet, or as genius displayed in any department. Beside the power of preserving order, deportment, system, fostering gentlemanly and ladylike conduct, is that of unfolding to the inquiring mind, gradually, the knowledge desired, so as to excite interest and a wish to learn. The pleasantest recollections we have of a teacher



are such as refer to times when firmness was displayed ; when the lessons were required, and were sufficiently explained to fix them indelibly upon our minds ; and when after severe trials and successful accomplishment, a word of praise was uttered for our success.

### PHYSICAL EXERCISES.

A prevalent idea exists that in the country there is no need of physical exercises, as every child can gain sufficient air and play-room for all needed exercise. This is strictly true in one sense. But look at the round-shouldered, stooping, awkward gait of some men, and you will find that most of them have had the country to exercise in.

The exercises introduced in our schools tend naturally to strengthen and develop the very part of the system that requires development for grace, beauty, and health. The marching exercises excite quick action, and supple, easy, and graceful motion.

In primary schools, the general mode of opening the windows and having gentle exercises, accompanied by singing, as a relaxation, is of so much moment and pleasure to the scholars that it should always be practised.

In grammar schools, the exercises should be more seriously attended to, for the advantage of physical development, and to correct round-shouldered deformity.

### IRREGULARITY OF ATTENDANCE.

It is generally understood that the purpose of New Englanders, since the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, has been that every child shall be thoroughly educated. Such is our purpose. Alas, too many are neglected ! Among several of the German States, and in other parts of Europe, the young men are required to give a certain part of their time to the state, and undergo severe ordeals in military instruction and



discipline, that they may be fitted to defend the State by force of arms. Our compulsion should be to require knowledge of the pen, rather than of the sword. Consequently, it seems right and proper that, inasmuch as we expend such immense sums for education, we should claim an acknowledgment from those who are benefited. We should demand that all scholars *shall* attend regularly and constantly; that only sickness, or some extraordinary reason, shall be sufficient excuse for absence. If poverty be an excuse, let our charitable societies look to it. If it be advisable to allow certain scholars the privilege of absenting themselves during the hours now assigned, require such to attend at stated hours more convenient for them; but on no account excuse them from a regular course and habit. It may at first be difficult to enforce this rule, yet its necessity is obvious to every one who has made the matter a study, and our schools suffer more from the irregular attendance of the pupils than is generally known.

France, Prussia, and other governments of Europe, have adopted an educational system strictly governmental, making it compulsory on the part of the parents to send their children, from the age of seven to fourteen, regularly to school. The result is, when this system has been enforced, the people are well educated, and the community more generally enlightened, than when the parents, as is too apt to be the case with us, desire their children to be frequently absent from school. Irregularity at school leads to truancy, and truancy leads to crime. We could wish that the citizens would assemble and consider their duty to the town, the young, and themselves, in reference to the following propositions:—

1. Is it expedient to oblige every child between the ages of seven and fourteen to attend school regularly?

If this is questioned, then consider:—

2. If it is necessary that children should absent themselves during the present school-hours, shall we change the hours



to meet their wants, or establish evening schools, or schools to be opened during other special hours of the day?

3. To see what legislative action may be required, if any, and to take the necessary steps.

The School Committee have not power wholly to control this matter. The truant law *seems* sufficient, yet it has little more than a name. So many exigencies prevent its due enforcement, that different legislation perhaps should be made.

### DIPLOMAS.

It is a natural desire of man to have his work acknowledged in some form or other, either by the gain of money or position. So long as there is a purpose for labor, good results will follow. Alike in the school as in the work-shop, or counting-room, there must be an object. The question of presenting prizes to scholars has been much discussed. In Boston, as heretofore adopted, the system has proved detrimental, and has been considered by many as exerting an unhealthy action upon the few who have striven for the honors. The reason is obvious. As there were comparatively but few medals to be distributed, the scholars generally knew who would be likely to receive them. Consequently, only the few would study for them; and these, fearful lest they should not prove the fortunate ones, would so far exert themselves as to endanger their health, perhaps seriously. We have introduced a different plan, which seems favorable. Every scholar who is fitted in our Grammar School for the High School, receives a diploma.

This method was adopted previous to the July examination, and each scholar admitted was honored on that occasion.

Since then, arrangements have been made to present a diploma to each member of the graduating class of the High School. It is hoped that the result will prove beneficial.



Already the pupils seem more disposed to pass through the course of studies prescribed for each school.

### TREES.

Generally speaking, the most inartistic view in the country is a school-house and its surroundings barren of flowers, vegetation, trees, or anything to relieve its poverty-stricken appearance. This is noticeable in many instances from Tuft's College down to the lowest primary school-house in Marshpee District.

Where is there a more interesting public adornment in our town than the little Primary, No 3, at Oak Square, surrounded by foliage of many varieties, the result principally of the taste and liberality of Hon. Joseph Breck, whose residence is on the Square? It was suggested by the Committee in several of the schools during the early part of the year, that if the scholars should subscribe trees or money, trees would be planted about the school-houses where they were needed, and great care should be taken to guard them; and that, if any one of the scholars should present a tree, special note should be made of it in the Report of the School Committee. The Harvard Grammar School, by Mr. Bigelow, circulated a subscription paper, and an amount of money was raised, sufficient to purchase at a low rate, aided by the liberality of a prominent citizen, fifteen large-sized silver-maples. Mr. Willard, of the Bennett Grammar School, through the liberality of the parents of a number of the scholars, and from other citizens, raised considerable money; and now eighty-five large-sized trees adorn the grounds about the building. Miss Wellman, of No. 6, had presented 12 trees, each one representing a scholar. The names of scholars, and others who presented trees and subscribed money are appended to this report. We expect that in another year Primaries Nos. 2 and 5 will be beautified in a like manner.



## MUSIC.

Perhaps the only school exercise or study practised by a majority of the young, after they leave school, is music. It is particularly a lady-like accomplishment. It elevates and refines the character, and dulls the edge of care. Mr. C. E. Whiting was engaged in 1865 to teach music, receiving for his services the proceeds of two concerts by the scholars, which he superintended. Since then he has continued to teach, receiving by a vote of the town, \$200 per year. He gives lessons three hours on Thursday of each week during the school year, in the following order: At the High School, from 11. to 12 M.; Bennett Grammar, 1½ to 2½ P.M.; and at the Harvard Grammar, from 9½ to 10½ A.M. He also receives the proceeds of a concert. Singing by note is taught in a number of primary schools in our vicinity. It has been proved that children understand the rudiments as readily as older persons; and we therefore hope that our primaries may in time receive the benefits of a special teacher, although many in these schools, can now sing by ear very prettily.

## FAST DRIVING.

During the past year quite a number of children have been injured in consequence of fast driving; and it is certainly the duty of the citizens of the town to take action and prevent like occurrences. We would not decry nor prevent the pleasure enjoyed by the many who drive on our streets. But it is of the few stimulated, reckless ones of whom we would speak, and urge that the police be instructed not only to attend to such cases generally, but especially during sleighing-time; to be active at the hour of closing the schools, and to assist the scholars particularly near Primary No. 6, on Beacon Street, where frequently so many teams collect, making the crossing of the street very dangerous.



## GENERAL REMARKS.

Citizens, by their liberality, supply the means for establishing all that is required for a liberal education. School-houses are built, and committees elected, whose duty it is to furnish teachers suitably qualified. There is no reason why each child with us should not receive, as good an education as any town in our vicinity will afford. If it does not in any special case, it may be the fault of the parents, who should, before removing their child from school, state the cause and if the wrong is repaired, lend their aid, support, and encouragement to the school. Not unfrequently, scholars who have been removed by their parents, and placed in some private school, have applied for readmission to our schools, and in most cases the scholarship of the applicants is inferior to that of the classes which they left. There is hardly a position more responsible or sacred than the charge of scholars. Each pupil is affected in a greater or less degree in his future life, for weal or woe, by the teacher over him. And when we consider that by judicious management we save from earthly perdition one of God's noblest creatures, we should thank Heaven that so much is accomplished. The object of Grammar and Primary Schools is to fit pupils for the general purposes of life,—to enable them to read and spell correctly, to speak and write grammatically, and to apply readily the fundamental rules of arithmetic. Geography should be lectured upon or taught in the Kindergarten manner, and History made interesting by exciting a love for the reading of it, rather than by the dry, dull mode of memorizing. This is in opposition to the general mode now adopted; still it is the modern and better mode. The practice of memorizing only expands the mind. All the knowledge attained at school is not remembered through life, yet any important fact impressed on the minds of scholars by a teacher who has the faculty of interesting



them, remains forever. Singing, drawing, and declamation, should be considered luxuries, and practised for the refinement of human nature. Upon entering a school-room, the most noticeable features are the deportment, neatness, and number of scholars present. Next to these come the proficiency of the school. If you find the scholars dull, sleepy, sober, nervous, and irritable, — something is wanting. Whereas, if you find them quick, active, full of life and animation, eager to recite, ambitious to excel, and in tears if they miss, you may be pretty sure that the teacher is fitted, and the work will be accomplished. In the latter case the teacher is respected, and the school loved. In the former, indifference is apparent. Some desire privileges in the Grammar Schools, which can hardly be granted. For example, a few scholars, generally the oldest, may wish to make the study of book-keeping a specialty. By favoring them, the order of exercises would be infringed upon, and the many suffer for the benefit of the few.

The regular course of study applies to the school, and is sufficient for both teacher and scholar.

The passion of many pupils for flowers, and the number presented at the several examinations, has added to our pleasure in attending them, and the occasional gift of flowers to the Board was an honor much appreciated.

It has for a long period been the custom in New England, "more honored in the breach than in the observance," to praise the schools, and occasionally make critical observations upon their condition, — to charge the teachers publicly with their faults, — occasionally to institute comparisons which create unpleasant feelings, and offer ill-timed remarks, which often discourage worthy teachers. We have, the past year, expressly and privately stated to the teachers all complaints, criticisms, and desired reformation; and now, in reviewing the praiseworthy condition of each school, note only the excellences most marked. Still we can but admit, that at the closing of this report we consider all the schools in a flourish-



ing condition. They may be entered without manifesting any positive want.

## PRIMARY NO. 1.

NORTH HARVARD STREET.

The interest manifested by parents, in attending examinations and visiting schools, is certainly most beneficial, and at this school most apparent. At one of the examinations flowers were brought in profusion and given to the teachers and Committee. Books were presented by the teachers to pupils who had excelled in deportment or studies; and pleasure was expressed by all present. Miss Mary B. Monto, the principal, is well adapted to her position. She is energetic; and her scholars are urged through a large amount of work, and show, by their ready recitations, that they are equal to the labor required. The order and deportment are good. Calisthenic exercises, accompanied by singing, were very interesting, and much ability and neatness were displayed in the writing books.

Miss Alice A. Swett, the assistant having charge of the infant classes, has done well indeed.

It is difficult to interest little children during school-hours sufficiently to make the dry studies pleasant to them. A teacher, to be fully qualified, must have a faculty suited for a higher sphere, would she expand the infant mind and impress it with all the knowledge expected in these progressive times.



## PRIMARY NO. 2.

## SCHOOL STREET.

A number of scholars belonging to this school have been allowed by their parents to absent themselves for the purpose of earning money at the market; consequently truancy has prevailed.

Miss Emma F. Holmes, the faithful and devoted principal, has continued to merit much praise. A graduate of the Boston Normal and Object Schools, she is enabled to introduce methods of instruction which are acknowledged to be superior by some of the most competent educators of the country. The mode of teaching her pupils to read, though varying but slightly from that adopted by several teachers in the town, corrects the old, expressionless, sing-song method, and enables every scholar to read in a very interesting manner. The distinct utterance of each word and necessary letter, required at first, may seem painful to persons not acquainted with the method; but the result of such teaching is apparent to all familiar with the art of reading well.

Miss Harriet A. Henderson, who had so faithfully taught in the second department since September 1, 1862, accepted the position offered her of Primary No. 3. She has deserved praise and received it, more especially for successful treatment of these little ones. We regard it essential that the same care and attention be paid the younger as the older pupils. Unless this is done the ill effects are apparent in the advanced classes. Neatness was here especially manifest. Each scholar, upon entering school, passed under the scrutinizing eyes of monitors, who detected unclean faces and hands and subjected them to ablutions in the adjoining room.

Miss Sarah P. Morrill, a graduate of our High School, succeeded Miss Henderson. She entered upon her duties immediately; has well sustained the fair name of the school,—



a task which would be creditable in any teacher, and we have much faith in her permanent success.

### PRIMARY NO. 3.

#### OAK SQUARE.

Miss Ellen Harris commenced teaching in this school Dec. 3, 1855, and has particularly excelled as instructor in reading and writing. Rev. Arthur Swasey, in his report of 1856, said: "Miss Harris has been so successful her first term that we shall expect her to be among the foremost of our teachers after a little more experience." Rev. F. A. Whitney, in 1860, copies the words of Mr. Swasey, and adds: "What was then prophecy is now history." Such commendation has continued to the present writing. Accordingly her resignation, which occurred on the 1st of May, shortly before her marriage, was with much regret accepted. Her place was immediately filled by Miss Harriet A. Henderson, who had served as assistant in No. 2 with so much success. The school, by the change, did not deteriorate; but, in fact, incited by Miss Henderson's characteristic determination and force, it has flourished, and still stands among the best.

The exercises in marching, singing, and phonetics are exceedingly attractive, while neatness and good deportment are made manifest.

### PRIMARY NO. 4.

#### ACADEMY HILL.

Immediately after the burning of the High School edifice, detailed on page 4, this school assembled in the Town Hall with Primary No. 5, and subsequently occupied the room temporarily fitted and furnished under the Hall. Mrs. Mary C. Alexander, continued as principal until the 31st of December, when she resigned her place, having accepted the



charge of a school at Cambridge. She was a lady of culture and refinement, and displayed such attractions as to win the affection of her pupils; yet the school was backward in many of its exercises. The interruption by necessary changes may in part account for its condition.

Miss Emma Louisa Waugh, the Assistant, was appointed Principal upon Mrs. Alexander's resignation, having shown marked ability, especially in teaching reading. Young as the members of her school were, their proficiency proved that she was eminently fitted for the task she attempted, and now as a Principal, we expect the school will take a high stand among the Primaries. On the 6th of January last, the school was removed to the new High School building, Miss Waugh occupying the lower west room, and Miss Sophronia A. Collins who had been selected as Assistant, the east room.

Miss Collins, a graduate of our High School, without any practical experience as a teacher, assumes the command essential, and during the past few weeks has done well.

#### PRIMARY NO. 5.

##### UNION STREET.

At the close of the Spring term, Miss Anna L. Kingsley, whose merits and worth as a teacher are duly acknowledged and honorably noted in past reports, resigned her position as Principal, which resignation was reluctantly accepted by the Committee. At the examination on the 19th of February, 1867, the school showed much proficiency. The order, neatness, and deportment have been unexceptionable, and the exercises in singing evinced taste and naturalness of expression.

As a proof of the interest and love of the scholars, the Principal was presented by them with a dressing-case, vases, and other gifts.

Miss Charlotte Adams, who, as assistant, had manifested



her gifts for teaching, was appointed Principal, and continued to improve, in spite of the interruption by the burning of the building, as detailed on page 4. She sent her first class to the Bennett Grammar School in September, thoroughly fitted.

Miss Julia Annie Thompson was selected an Assistant, and served with credit until the close of the Summer term, when she removed from town. This vacancy was filled at the commencement of school in September, by Miss Dana, of this town, a graduate of our High School, who still continues. Though she has had but little experience, we look with faith for her ultimate success. Her school at the fall examination impressed the Committee most favorably.

On the 11th of September the school was transferred from the Town Hall, where, during four months, by reason of the fire, the pupils had been cramped on ill-fitted settees, to the new and elegant building, finely furnished, on Union Street, at the head of Shepard Street, and there divided. Miss Adams took charge of the advanced classes in the upper room, and Miss Dana of the younger pupils, making for her what may be properly termed an infant department. At the several examinations such advance was noted as to warrant the satisfaction of the Committee, and to relieve them of anxiety as to the success of the school.

#### PRIMARY NO. 6.

WEBSTER PLACE, OUT FROM BEACON STREET.

In nearly every school some interesting feature is prominent to the examiner, either in excellence of scholarship, order, discipline, singing or other exercises; yet in this school the general advance is such that we can but pronounce it good. Miss M. E. Wellman, the teacher, sustains such pleasant relations with the pupils, and their parents, that while the school is under her charge, we feel little care or



anxiety for its welfare. At one of the examinations many flowers were brought to decorate the room; gift offerings, acknowledging love and kindness; tributes justly due the teacher, while expressions of commendation were made by visitors.

## HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

NORTH HARVARD STREET.

*Principal.* — MR. GUILFORD D. BIGELOW.

*First Assistant.* — MISS ELLEN CHILD.

*Second Assistant.* — MISS CAROLINE L. COLBY.

The distinguishing feature of this school is the business-like animation prevalent. All is life and earnestness. You see a purpose and determination. No sluggard rests in peace here. He is spurred on, and each one enters into the spirit of the exercises with resolution. As you enter the room with its many scholars at five minutes before the hour of commencing school, you find them (except a few dilatory ones) in their seats, talking and laughing in apparent disorder; while the dilatory scholars, as they arrive, during the five minutes preceding the opening of the school, take their seats; and precisely at the hour, the Principal's bell is touched, and instantly the utmost quiet prevails. Then the ordinary exercises commence with a will and determination that is very pleasing. There is no lost energy, no unnecessary labor on the part of the Principal or his assistants; the work is understood, the labor commenced, a few explanations are made; not an unnecessary word is uttered, and so the school goes on, full of life and animation, with a determination and aim, like a machine perfectly regulated, fitted by a master mechanic and run without jar or noise, accomplishing all with quiet ease.

Economy of time in hearing recitations, asking and answer-



ing questions, is one of the cardinal points in the success of a teacher, and fairly practised here. For several years more interest has been manifested here by the parents, especially in their attendance at the public examinations.

At the regular public examination in February last, the attendance was very large. The exercises, especially in singing, declamation, and mental arithmetic, were exceedingly interesting. The dialogue, entitled "The Allegorical Black Cat," performed by a large number of the girls in costume, received applause.

The musical and literary entertainment given by this school at Union Hall, on the evening of the 31st of January, 1867, under the charge of Messrs. Bigelow and C. E. Whiting, was exceedingly entertaining. The musical qualities of a number of the girls elicited admiration.

Miss Child is very able, — energetic and thorough. We have no doubt that many scholars under her charge will, in time, acknowledge with thankfulness her earnest purpose in requiring perfect recitations. Miss Colby, the second assistant, has been of much service by her proficiency displayed in the musical exercises.

#### BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

WINSHIP PLACE, AGRICULTURAL HILL.

*Principal.* — MR. W. A. P. WILLARD.

*First Assistant.* — MISS SARAH E. WAUGH.

*Second Assistant.* — MISS H. A. LEAVITT.

This school is divided into three departments. They are in most respects entirely distinct, and therefore cannot be treated as a whole.

The first department, under the especial charge of Mr. Willard, has received during the past year, from parents and friends, words of commendation, especially at the annual exhibition in February, which was well conducted. The



examination in July was made very interesting by the awarding of diplomas to the graduating class, and by the interest expressed in the school by several brilliant pupils, who graduated with honor. The principal was presented with a writing-desk by the graduating class, as an earnest of their respect and love for him as a teacher. An important change, which resulted adversely, was attempted during the greater part of the year, and in this case proved its impracticability. We refer to the abolishment of corporal punishment. Mr. Willard, desiring to conform with the spirit of the times, and prove, if possible, that corporal punishment was not essential to the good government of a school, labored wearily to this end nearly a year. At first he seemed to succeed, but subsequently, troublesome ones, believing there would be no retribution in this school, took an independent and insubordinate stand which warranted such discipline as would ensure correct deportment and gentlemanly conduct.

Since this occasion, one or two members have left, and the school, consisting of many interesting scholars, continues satisfactory in every respect.

The second department, in charge of Miss Sarah E. Waugh, is entitled to the same praise heretofore awarded her. A special beauty in her teaching is, that all scholars are advanced alike. Some acquire knowledge very readily, yet do not always retain in their minds all they have learned, unless especially impressed by their teacher; while others, who are termed dullards, with difficulty understand, yet when through the patience of the teacher, they fully comprehend, become equally proficient. For correcting these anomalies Miss Waugh has a peculiar faculty. The quiet power exerted over her scholars by her force of character has been noted before by Committees, and excited the thought of mesmeric influence alluded to in another part of the present report.

Miss H. A. Leavitt, teacher in the third department, continues to sustain the school. She has had considerable trouble with a number of scholars, who are quite irregular in



their attendance. In many respects her position is more difficult than that of any other teacher in town, but she has done as well as could be expected.

## HIGH SCHOOL.

### ACADEMY HILL.

*Principal.* — MR. W. H. MERRITT.

*First Assistant.* — MISS ANNA J. GEORGE.

*Second Assistant.* — MISS ELIZA E. WILLIAMS.

*Teacher of Music.* — MR. C. E. WHITING.

The chief purpose of this school, as is well understood, is to fit scholars for the higher walks of life, and to prepare them to excel in whatever profession or calling may be theirs hereafter, as men and women. Since the establishment of this school, in May, 1841, now almost twenty-seven years, many have gone from it to the College, the Scientific School, and the University; many are reflecting honor upon it from commercial and from domestic life; and many have acquired good reputations as teachers, here and elsewhere.

During the past year a new course of instruction has been introduced, with the purpose, ultimately, of raising the grade, and of having, annually, a graduating class. The difficulty heretofore has been with us, as probably in all similar schools, that many leave before completing the prescribed course. As an additional inducement to retain the pupils to the end, we now prepare diplomas, which will be presented to each graduate of the regular or classical course.

Mr. Merritt's ability, as a classical and scientific scholar and teacher, has been acknowledged by many fully competent to judge, and there is now no reason why our High School should not rank with the first in the State.

We do not exaggerate in saying that the High School, during the past year, has greatly improved. We feared at one time a different result, and thus bestow express praise where it is



certainly due. The first examination, or rather exhibition, occurred February 23d, 1867, occupying the whole day. It was attended by many parents and friends; indeed, a large number were unable to enter the building in the afternoon. The order of exercises, neatly printed, comprised recitations, singing, declamations, compositions, reading, and several dramatic pieces, well performed by a number of the leading pupils. The whole affair was so great a success that it was repeated in the Town Hall, and much commended. This exhibition was not, perhaps, a fair criterion of the condition of the school.

The burning of the building, during the night of March 20th, detailed above, and the removal of the school to Union Hall, was, of course, unfavorable to its progress; nevertheless the regular examination in July showed such advance as to win praise from each member of the Committee. Since then, although met by several impediments, occasioned by the introduction of a large number of scholars, and the disadvantage of an unsuitable room, as Union Hall proved to be, the school has steadily progressed. Much praise, certainly due, has been awarded in past years to Miss George, whose ability none would question. She has the faculty of interesting her scholars in their studies; and the privilege she allows each member of a class, to question the others upon the subject-matter in the lesson of the day, with the privilege allowed the class to question a selected member, engenders a love for the work and ambition to excel. Miss Williams, the second assistant, has evinced such capability as to assist materially in the advance of the school. She, as Miss George, is well versed in teaching reading, and the neatness and ability observed in the writing and drawing books is attributable to her attention.

The refining influences of music are here noticeable. True feeling and taste are displayed, and the exercises contribute much to the interest in the school.



## VENTILATION.

This is a subject of especial interest to the town, and one that should receive particular attention not only in an economical point of view, but in regard to the health of the scholars.

We are extravagant in the use of fuel, and liable in attempting to obtain a large amount of heat to injure the furnaces and stoves. We may profit in our schools by the following discovery. A number of years ago it was found that in a room in the Patent Office in Washington a heat could not be gained above forty degrees Fahrenheit with a most excellent furnace in full blast, until a hole was cut in the floor, which was no sooner done than the "confined ponderous gases plunged down the aperture, and in a few minutes the thermometer showed the excessive heat of ninety degrees."

Many of late have availed themselves of this discovery.

An aperture should be made in the floor of every room difficult to heat by a furnace, and a conductor connected to carry the cold air into the bottom of the furnace. We hope this may be done speedily. By reason of the large expenditures of the past year we have deferred it.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained on the first day of May last by the Assessors, according to law, was 874; boys 441, girls, 433.

## APPROPRIATION.

The Committee recommend that the sum of 12,500 dollars be appropriated by the Town for teachers' wages, fuel, and incidental expenses of the schools for the ensuing year.

Respectfully, in behalf of the School Committee,

J. P. C. WINSHIP, *Chairman.*

J. P. C. WINSHIP,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
C. H. B. BRECK,		
HENRY BALDWIN,		

*Brighton, February 6, 1868.*



# RULES OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

ADOPTED 1867-

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## I. ADMISSION AND TRANSFER OF PUPILS.

### 1. *Age.*

No child under five years of age shall be admitted as a scholar.

### 2. *Transfer of Pupils.*

1. Pupils shall be transferred from one grade of schools to the next higher grade, annually, at the beginning of the school year, after passing satisfactory examination before the School Committee, on the entire course of study, to the point at which the candidate seeks to enter.

2. For the transfer from the Primary to the Grammar Schools, the ordinary examination at the end of the school year shall be sufficient in the cases of those scholars whose examination the School Committee may deem satisfactory and who may appear creditably on the Registers of the Schools and in the Reports of the Teachers.

3. For transfer from the Grammar Schools to the High School, seventy per cent. of correct answers shall be required of those examined. This percentage shall be deemed indispensable in spelling, arithmetic, and grammar; while in all other branches of study, scholars, whose percentage is not below fifty per cent., may be conditionally transferred by the School Committee.



*Special Admissions and Promotions.*

Children who may become residents of the Town after the beginning of the school year may be admitted as scholars ; or those in schools of lower grade, when it may be deemed desirable to promote, may be promoted at any time, on examination by the School Committee, if they are found qualified to join any class existing in the schools to which such promotion would raise them.

## II. ATTENDANCE.

1. *Attendance at the Daily Sessions.*

When the absences of any scholar exceed in number ten half days in any term of school, such scholar shall be considered as having resigned membership in the school, and shall be readmitted only by order of some member of the School Committee.

*Proviso for the Preceding Rule.*

The teacher, on personal knowledge, or satisfactory evidence, that a scholar's absences are occasioned by sickness or other just cause, may, at discretion, suspend the operation of the preceding Rule. But, in case of ten unexcused absences, the rule as above shall always take effect.

*Attendance at the Examinations.*

Any scholar, absent from examination at the close of any term of school, shall, if required, pass a similar examination before one or more of the School Committee, previous to his resuming his attendance in the schools.

## III. DISCIPLINE.

1. The pupils shall be taught good morals and good



manners ; and particular attention shall be paid to correctness of deportment, and neatness of appearance.

2. It shall be the duty of the teachers to maintain a kind and parental discipline in the schools. They shall keep a record of all cases of corporal or other equally severe punishment, for the inspection of the School Committee.

#### IV. REGISTERS.

The teachers shall keep registers as follows : —

##### 1. *The Register of Attendance.*

On this register shall appear the *full* name, and age, and number of each scholar, with the record of his or her attendance on each half-day session of school. This Register shall be kept according to the plan and upon the blank forms supplied by the State Board of Education.

##### 2. *Register of Deportment.*

On this register shall be entered every noted fault in deportment, and, as an offset, any notable feature of good behavior, constancy or excellence as a scholar ; that the whole may be summed up by the end of the term, for the inspection of the School Committee.

##### *Register of Study.*

1. *In the High School and Grammar Schools.* — Each principal or his assistants shall record the recitations of each pupil according to their merit, crediting them from one to five, according to their ability, for each recitation.

To simplify the mode, each scholar may register in a little book provided, the number of credits gained, and report to the teacher each day the number he or she is entitled to, that return only to be entered in the register kept by the teacher.



2. *In the Primary Schools.*—In the Primary Schools, each recitation is not marked separately, but one number represents all the recitations, or other exercises of study for the half day session.

*Summation of the Registers.*

At the close of each term of school, a summation shall be made for the inspection of the School Committee, of all the credits or demerits which each scholar has received on each of the other registers separately.

The Committee will make due mention of extraordinary attainments or deficiencies as shown by the summations of each scholar.



# COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

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## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### FIFTH CLASS.

Hillard's First Primary Reader.  
Teaching the sound of each letter.  
Spelling from the Reader.  
Numbers from 1 to 100.

### FOURTH CLASS.

Hillard's Second Primary Reader, — to 50th page.  
Spelling from the Reader, with exercises in the sound of letters.  
Marks of Punctuation in Reading Lessons.  
Adding and subtracting numbers, to twenty.  
Arithmetic by objects.  
Table of Numbers.  
Slate Exercises in Drawing.  
Singing and Physical Exercises for the whole school.  
Memorizing Verses.

### THIRD CLASS.

Hillard's Second Primary Reader, — completed.  
Spelling of words in columns and reading lessons, — also by sound.  
Marks of Punctuation.  
Greenleaf's Primary Arithmetic, — to page 45.



## SECOND CLASS.

Hillard's Third Primary Reader, — to the 100th page.

Spelling of words in columns and in reading.

Difficult words to be spelled by sound.

Conversations on the meaning of what is read.

Abbreviations and Roman Numerals.

Greenleaf's Primary Arithmetic, — finished; and first 30 pages in Intellectual Arithmetic.

Worcester's Speller, — to page 50.

Warren's Primary School Geography, — through North America.

## FIRST CLASS.

Hillard's Third Primary Reader, — completed, — with definitions, explanations, spelling by letters and by sounds; also, questions on punctuation, the use of capitals, and the marks indicating the punctuation.

Worcester's Speller, — finished.

Greenleaf's New Intellectual Arithmetic, — to Fractions.

Warren's Primary Geography, — finished.

Drawing Exercises on Slate and Blackboard.

Abbreviations.

Payson, Dunton, & Scribner's Writing Books.

Singing and Physical Exercises.

Memorizing Pieces of Poetry, etc.



## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

## THIRD CLASS.

Hillard's Fourth Reader.

Worcester's Pronouncing Speller, — to page 70, and Abbreviations.

Greenleaf's Intellectual Arithmetic, — Fractions, to Lesson 37, page 101.

Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic, — commence and go to U. S. Money.

Warren's Common School Geography, — to Eastern States, page 30.

Payson, Dunton, & Scribner's Writing Books.

## SECOND CLASS.

Hillard's Intermediate Reader.

Worcester's Pronouncing Spelling Book, — to page 101.

Greenleaf's Intellectual Arithmetic, — to Interest, page 120.

Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic, — to page 169.

Warren's Common School Geography, — to Europe.

Kerl's Grammar, — to Syntax.

Payson, Dunton, & Scribner's Writing Books.

## FIRST CLASS.

Hillard's Fifth Reader.

Worcester's Pronouncing Spelling Book, — finished.

Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic, — to Ratio.

Greenleaf's Intellectual Arithmetic, — finished.

Warren's Common School Geography, — finished, with Exercises in Map-drawing.



Kerl's Elementary English Grammar, — finished.

Payson, Dunton, & Scribner's Writing Books.

Composition, Singing, General Exercises, and Declamation, every Wednesday and Saturday, after recess.

Physical Exercises.

In the study of Geography, Guyot's shall be used by the teachers as a book of reference, and in reviews.

## HIGH SCHOOL.

### FIRST YEAR.

Hillard's Sixth Reader, — Exercises in Spelling.

Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic, — completed.

Quackenbos's U. S. History.

Kerl's Grammar.

Hall's Manual of Morals, — a weekly lesson, with oral instruction.

### SECOND YEAR.

Reading, — till commencement of Spring Term.

Algebra, Greenleaf's Elementary.

Quackenbos's Natural Philosophy.

Physical Geography, Warren's.

Book-keeping, Mayhew's System, during, Spring and Summer Terms.

General History.

French.

### THIRD YEAR.

Algebra, Greenleaf's Elementary, — completed.

Geometry, Greenleaf's, — begun.



General History, Worcester's.

Astronomy.

Botany. Gray's "How Plants Grow." — Commencement of Spring Term, through the year.

French.

#### FOURTH YEAR.

Geometry, Greenleaf's, — completed.

Chemistry, Youman's.

Rhetoric, Quackenbos's.

Constitution of the United States, — Shepard's Text Book.

Drawing.

Declamation and Composition, — alternating each week.

#### CLASSICAL COURSE.

*Optional in place of French and Mathematics.*

1st Year. — Latin Grammar, Andrew & Stoddard's.  
Latin Reader, Andrew's.

2d Year. — Cæsar, Andrew's.  
Greek Grammar, Sophocles'.  
Greek Lessons, Sophocles'.

3d Year. — Anabasis, Crosby's.

4th Year. — Cicero, Folsom's.  
Iliad (three Books).  
Ancient Geography.

#### GENERAL EXERCISES.

1st Year. — Writing. Payson, Dunton, & Scribner's Writing Books.



*Through the Course.*—Reading, Spelling, General Literature, Composition (once a fortnight), Declamation (once a fortnight); Music, under the direction of the Music Master.



## SCHOOL TERMS.

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The school year is divided into three terms, as follows : —

1. *Spring and Summer Term* — 20 weeks.  
 Begins — March 2, 1868.  
 Vacation — Anniversary Week.  
 Ends — July 25, 1868.  
 Vacation.
  2. *Autumn Term* — 12 weeks.  
 Begins — September 7, 1868.  
 Ends — November 28, 1868.  
 Vacation.
  3. *Winter Term* — 12 weeks.  
 Begins — December 7, 1868.  
 Ends — February 27, 1869.
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## HOLIDAYS.

Wednesdays and Saturdays, P. M.  
 New Year's Day.  
 Washington's Birthday.  
 Fast Day.  
 June Day (1st).  
 June 17.  
 July 4.  
 Commencement at Harvard (High School only).  
 Thanksgiving.  
 Christmas.



TABLE OF ANNUAL PROGRESS.

YEAR.	Population.	No. of Public Schools.	School Children.	Appropriation for Wages and Fuel.	Rank in State for Amount Appropriated.
1837	1,337	4	337	\$1,000	
1838-39	"	4	338	1,200	
1839-40	"	4	323	1,200	
1840-41	1,425	5	321	1,000	37
1841-42	"	6	319	2,000	1
1842-43	"	6	334	2,000	1
1843-44	"	6	359	2,000	3
1844-45	"	5	361	2,000	6
1845-46	1,837	7	411	2,000	10
1846-47	"	7	421	2,300	5
1847-48	"	8	447	2,300	11
1848-49	"	9	496	2,700	11
1849-50	2,356	9	452	3,100	8
1850-51	"	9	402	3,500	3
1851-52	"	9	445	3,500	6
1852-53	"	9	455	3,500	11
1853-54	"	9	475	3,900	9
1854-55	"	9	500	4,200	10
1855-56	2,895	9	612	4,800	25
1856-57	"	9	587	5,300	15
1857-58	"	9	550	5,500	6
1858-59	"	9	533	5,650	6
1859-60	"	9	673	6,000	17
1860-61	3,375	9	654	6,200	16
1861-62	"	9	719	6,400	15
1862-63	"	9	728	7,000	8
1863-64	"	9	729	6,995	7
1864-65	"	9	728	7,600	7
1865-66	3,859	9	751	8,700	4
1866-67	4,368	9	907	10,700	



# TABLE OF ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.

## CONTINUED REPORT.

YEAR.	Wages and Fuel.	Prudential Committee.	General Committee.	For all School Purposes.
1840-41	\$1,040.08		\$79.00	
1841-42	1,954.83		101.00	
1842-43	1,958.94	\$40	58.00	
1843-44	1,994.65	40	85.00	
1844-45	1,905.28	40	75.00	
1845-46	1,730.05	40	75.00	
1846-47	2,058.09	60	75.00	
1847-48	2,374.17	60	80.00	
1848-49	2,731.66	60	74.00	\$3,745.10
1849-50	3,176.89	60	92.50	3,731.49
1850-51	3,244.14	60	120.00	4,017.75
1851-52	3,517.63	60	90.00	4,083.79
1852-53	3,595.18	60	70.00	4,080.38
1853-54	3,978.16	60	80.00	13,349.03
1854-55	4,272.29	60	102.00	5,068.08
1855-56	4,259.93	60	146.08	10,265.25
1856-57	4,899.41	60	125.00	16,347.61
1857-58	5,520.90	60	141.00	6,527.15
1858-59	5,676.97	60	130.00	6,388.49
1859-60	5,847.91	40	150.00	7,123.58
1860-61	5,857.10	40	120.00	19,135.47
1861-62	6,300.74	20	150.00	8,836.41
1862-63	6,589.00	10	160.00	7,362.89
1863-64	6,636.16		125.00	7,299.53
1864-65	8,180.40		200.00	9,630.96
1865-66	9,164.50		262.00	10,820.13
1866-67	10,474.00		337.50	13,163.18



TABLE OF SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

SCHOOLS.			TEACHERS.			
NAME.	LOCATION.	Established.	NAMES.	Native Place.	Office.	Began.*
High	Academy Hill	1841	Washington Hill Merritt Anna Jindson George Eliza Ellis Williams	Warren, Mass. Plymouth, N. H. Needham	Principal Assistant Assistant	Aug. 31, 1863 Aug. 30, 1847 Sept. 1865
Bennett Grammar	Winship Place Agricultural Hill	1847	William Augustus Putnam Willard Sarah Elizabeth Waugh Helen Amelia Leavitt	Sterling Brighton Livemore, Me.	Principal Assistant Assistant	March 6, 1865 Sept. 29, 1847 April 14, 1864
Harvard Grammar	North Harvard St.	1848	Guilford Dudley Bigelow Ellen Child Carrie Lois Colby	Harvard Weston Brighton	Principal Assistant Assistant	Dec. 19, 1859 Feb. 1, 1865 Sept. 3, 1866
Primary, No. 1	"	1845	Mary Barrett Mouto Alice Aramenta Swett	Boston Newfield, Me.	Principal Assistant	Sept. 8, 1859 May 1, 1866
" " 2	School Street		Emma Frances Holmes Sarah Pellett Morrill	Lynn, Mass. Thornton, N. H.	Principal Assistant	Dec. 11, 1866 May 1, 1867
" " 3	Oak Square		Harriet A. Henderson	Brighton	Teacher	Sept. 14, 1863
" " 4	Academy Hill	1845	Emma Louisa Waugh Sophronia A. Collins	Brighton Brighton	Principal Assistant	Sept. 3, 1866 Jan. 1868
" " 5	Union St.		Charlotte Adams	Iowa City	Principal	Sept. 14, 1865
" " 6	Webster Place, Beacon St.		Emma Patterson Dana Mary Elizabeth Welhuan	Brighton Brighton	Assistant Teacher	Sept. 2, 1867 Aug. 31, 1857

Annual  
Salary.\$1,600  
600  
460  
1,300  
500  
460  
1,300  
480  
300  
410  
250  
410  
340  
410  
410  
340  
410  
340  
410

7 Buildings; 9 Schools; 14 Departments; 1 High; 2 Grammar; 6 Primary.

This table shows the schools and teachers as they *now are*. The facts relating to the *year past* are to be found in the body of the Report.

\* The heading "Began" signifies the date of first commencing to teach in the town. Several of the teachers in times past have been transferred to the places they now occupy.



# STATISTICAL TABLE.

SCHOOLS.	SPRING & SUM. TERM.				FALL TERM.				WINTER TERM.			THE WHOLE YEAR.				Per cent. of Attendance.
	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Examination.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Examination.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging Jan. 1st, 1868.	Average Attendance.	Average Registered.	Av. Belonging Jan. 1, 1868.	Average Examination.	Average Attendance.	
High School . . . . .	62	53	46	52	78	75	72	69	79	77	71	68	77	65	64	90
Bennett Grammar, 1st Department . . . . .	47	46	42	40	40	40	38	37	45	44	42	44	43	40	40	90
“ “ 2d “ . . . . .	50	47	42	41	55	53	50	46	54	54	45	53	51	48	44	83
“ “ 3d “ . . . . .	48	42	41	37	48	46	42	38	52	52	43	49	46	47	39	78
Harvard Grammar . . . . .	107	74	63	76	103	85	69	76	91	87	76	100	82	66	76	85
Primary, No. 1 . . . . .	126	111	90	93	107	102	88	87	91	82	70	108	98	89	83	80
“ “ 2, 1st Department . . . . .	50	48	46	43	53	50	48	42	55	53	45	52	50	47	43	82
“ “ 2, 2d “ . . . . .	86	72	70	52	79	71	50	54	55	50	43	73	64	60	50	68
“ “ 3 “ . . . . .	74	67	64	57	68	57	56	54	60	55	55	67	60	60	55	82
“ “ 4, 1st “ . . . . .	101	98	88	84	48	46	42	35	59	59	49	69	67	43	56	81
“ “ 4, 2d “ . . . . .	“	“	“	“	59	55	42	46	47	46	35	53	50	44	39	73
“ “ 5, 1st “ . . . . .	123	113	103	91	52	50	46	41	47	45	39	115	102	102	91	79
“ “ 5, 2d “ . . . . .	“	“	“	“	67	65	55	55	57	57	48	“	“	“	“	“
“ “ 6 “ . . . . .	61	50	48	44	51	48	33	43	51	48	38	54	48	40	41	76



## TREES.

*Subscriptions for planting 85 Trees around the  
Bennett Grammar School-House.*

## CITIZENS.

Nathaniel Jackson, \$5 ; Stephen H. Bennett, \$5 ; Cyrus D. Curtis, \$5 ; Bela S. Fiske, \$5 ; John Burlingame, \$5 ; William Scollins, \$3 ; James A. Cogswell, \$4 ; David Collins, 2 ; Charles Heard, \$2 ; Baxter & Sanborn, \$2 ; Wm. A. P. Willard, \$2 ; Francis H. Ellis, 25c. ; Henry Cabot, 2 days' labor ; Edward A. Story, 6 trees ; William T. Porter, 15 trees ; Patrick Ivory, 1 tree ; Patrick Kenney, 1 tree.

## PUPILS OF THE SCHOOL.

Adelaide Francis Boynton, \$3 ; George Larnard, \$3 ; Horace Willard Baxter, \$3 ; Elizabeth Lillie Benyon, \$3 ; Frank Plummer Boynton, \$3 ; Elbia Lincoln Barker, \$3 ; Willie Bond Scates, \$1 ; Fannie Danforth, \$1 ; Herbert Langdon Waterman, \$1 ; Mary Elizabeth Brodrick, \$1 ; Jerome Brock, \$1.

The following pupils contributed one tree each : —

\* Sarah Dana Osborn, 1 American Elm ; John Stephen Mullin, 1 Linden ; Charles Howard Jackson, 1 American Elm ; William Ashley Fiske, 1 American Elm ; George Alvin Floyd, 1 Linden ; Mary Alice Lloyd, 1 Linden ; Reuben Henry Lloyd, 1 Linden ; Walter Lloyd, 1 Linden ; Frank Henry Jackson, 1 Ash ; William Dana White, 1 Ash.

*Subscriptions for trees at Harvard Grammar School.*

## CITIZENS AND PUPILS.

E. M. Abbott, \$2 ; M. D. Tucker, \$1 ; Samuel Davis, \$2 ; N. H. Colman, 50c. ; F. E. Bailey, 50c. ; L. P. Hill, 50c. ; A. Wright, \$1 ; E. Porter, \$1 ; Patrick Darcy, 25c. ; Sarah T. Wadleigh, 25c. ; William Macken, 25c. ; Marion Kendall 27c. ; Charles Clapp, 25c.



*Pupils of Primary No. 1 who subscribed.*

Bertie Rice, Emory Abbott, Sarah Timmins, Francis Murray, Bennie Ogden, Josie Ogden, Louis Larey, Celia Kendall, John Clasby, Patsey Clasby, John Cronin, Henry Tirrell.

The trees planted were procured of W. C. Strong, Esq., at half price.

*Primary No. 6.*

There were twelve pupils of this school who gave trees, and care was taken to have each tree planted in the name of the giver. As you enter the school-grounds the first tree on the right was planted in the name of Mabel Hooper, and the next in order by Lyman Winship Hooper, Raymond Hooper, Abbie Elizabeth Wild, George Albert Fuller, Henry Warren Bird, William Porter Golden, and Mabel Standish. On the left of the entrance, the first tree was by Susan Elizabeth Coolidge, the next in order Marland Langdon Pratt, Harrison Eleazer Porter, and Lizzie Lovina Brown.



4558.5

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TOWN OF BRIGHTON.  
1869.







THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

FEBRUARY 1, 1869.



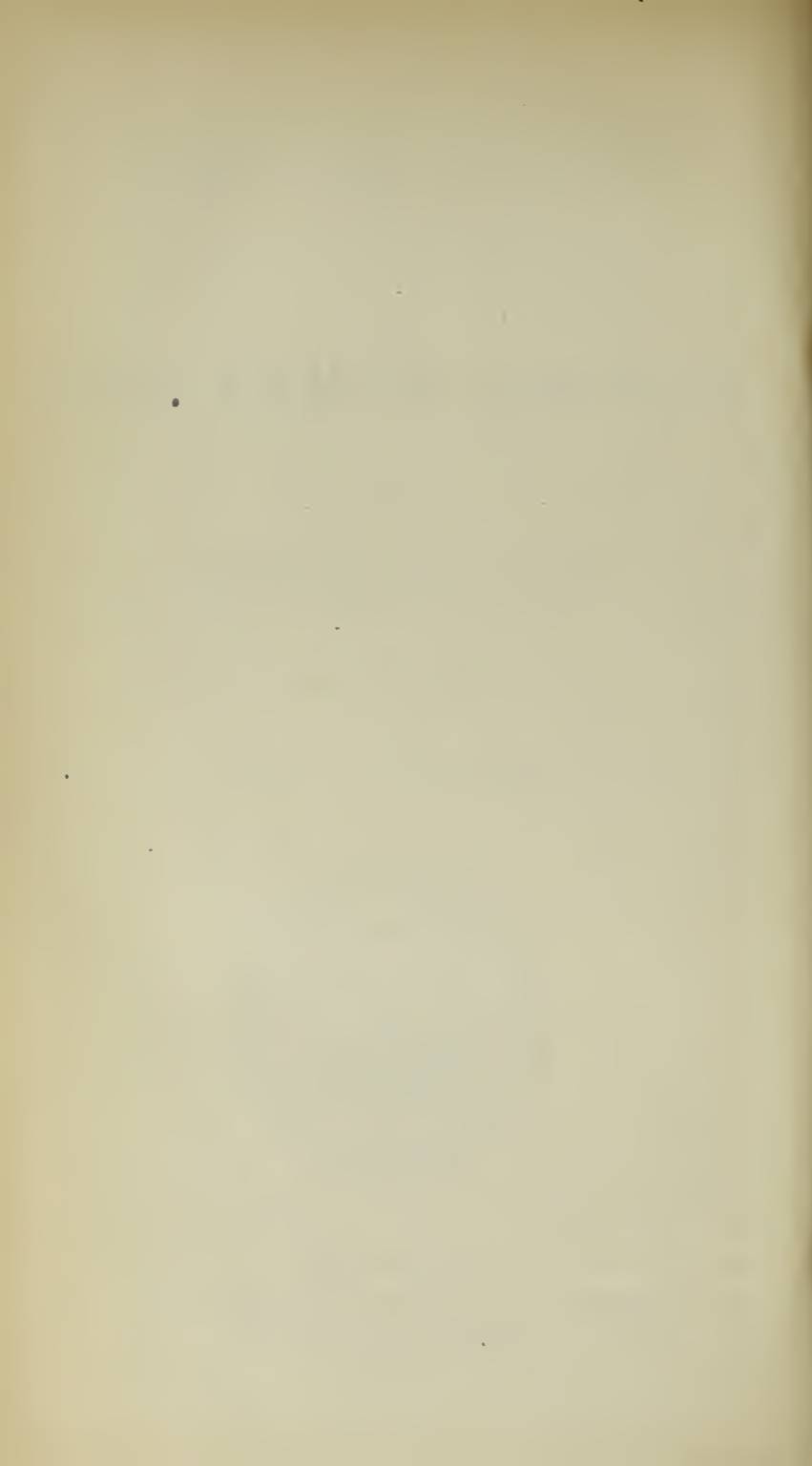
BOSTON :

ROCKWELL & ROLLINS, PRINTERS,

122 WASHINGTON STREET.

1869.







# REPORT.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON:—

In submitting our annual report this year, we have to congratulate the citizens of Brighton upon the flourishing condition of the several schools. We confidently believe that they will compare favorably with those of any of the neighboring towns and cities, thereby rendering the necessity of sending children away from town to obtain a thorough common-school education entirely unnecessary. To keep our schools in good working order and condition requires much time and care on the part of the Committee; we are fully sensible of the weighty responsibility resting upon us, but we have endeavored to meet this responsibility by faithfully devoting much time and our best energies to the performance of the many duties required of us, and we can conscientiously say that we have labored for the best interests of both scholars and parents, so far as it has been in our power. We would also congratulate you upon having good and efficient teachers, who earnestly and zealously devote their whole time to the instruction of your children; and we call upon you, fathers and mothers, to aid them with your sympathy and occasional presence in this important trust that has been committed to their charge. Manifest the interest you feel in the welfare of your children, by visiting the schools as often as you can make it convenient, where you will always be cordially received by both teachers and scholars. Your presence will not only be a pleasure to the



scholars, but it will encourage them in their efforts to study and acquit themselves well, and will be a source of great gratification to the teachers. You can, by so doing, examine for yourselves, and be assured by your own observations, that the schools are well managed, and your children confided to the care of faithful and competent instructors. We fully believe that this will create a better understanding between parents and teachers, and that there will be less cause for complaints. All that is wanting to make our schools as near perfect as it is possible for them to be, is for parents to take a greater interest in the education of their own children, by co-operating with the Committee and teachers, in seeing that the rules and regulations are properly enforced. Children should be taught to show that proper respect for their teachers which is rightfully their due, and they should be impressed with the importance of being truthful, as well as obedient to the rules and regulations adopted for the government of the schools, which every one acquainted with will allow to be just and reasonable, and without which no institution can be sustained for any length of time.

We occasionally have complaints of teachers for obliging pupils to conform to these rules and regulations, and of punishments which are said to have been inflicted upon scholars, sometimes without a word of truth in them. These complaints of the teacher are sometimes made after having heard only one side, and before an investigation has been made; the teacher is unjustly censured and the Committee blamed. It is natural for a parent to take part with the child, but it would be well to look into the matter thoroughly, and understand fully the circumstances of every case before coming to a conclusion. If a little trouble would be taken to see if the statements made were entirely reliable, a different view would oftentimes be taken. We will cite a case to the point, that will show the importance of hearing both sides before becoming excited and deciding hastily upon the statement of a child who wishes to shield himself from punishment.



Complaint was made to the chairman, by a citizen, that unjust and severe punishment had been inflicted upon his son, who had told his father that he had been expelled from school with directions to get a permit before he would be allowed to return. He remained out of school a week or more before his father could make it convenient to see the sub-committee, who, as soon as he was informed of it, wrote to the teacher complained of, who immediately responded in person, much surprised at the charge made against her, and declared that there was not one word of truth in it; that the boy had not been into her school during the term, but was an attendant of the next higher department of the same Grammar School. Thinking perhaps that the father had mistaken the name of the teacher, an interview was had with the teacher who had charge of the next higher department, who in turn was as much astonished at the charge of severe punishment as the first teacher complained of. She said the boy had been in her school, but she had not struck him a blow, although he had been idle, neglecting his lessons, never being ready to recite, and, by being extremely impudent, setting an example to the school that was highly detrimental. She said that she had talked and reasoned with him, and told him that if he did not do better, she should be obliged to degrade by sending him back to the lower department; he left when school was out, and did not return. He told his parents that the teacher had punished him severely, by striking and beating him over the head and shoulders, and turning him out of school, with the strict injunction that he must go to the Committee for a permit before he could be again admitted!

You see how unjustly this teacher was blamed, wholly upon the representation of a boy who was determined to have his own way, and do as he pleased in school. Before coming to an unjust conclusion, it is better to hear a fair statement from both sides; it will save much hard feeling and anxiety of mind on the part of parents, as well as a good deal of use-



less annoyance, and much waste of time to Committee and teachers.

We have adopted a rule that, henceforth, when complaints of the teachers are made for obliging their scholars to conform to the regulations, a hearing shall be had, when all interested can state their cause of complaint, so that the Committee may decide at once without loss of time. Heretofore, when a complaint has been made to a single member of the Board, it has taken some time to come to a decision, producing the impression that we have been neglectful of our duty.

The importance of a good education cannot be overestimated, and to attain this object, no means should be neglected. To keep our schools up to a high standard is of great importance, and is what we are continually striving to do. Our schools are fully capable of conferring upon each pupil knowledge that will insure success in the various pursuits of life, if he or she be industrious and determined to learn. Teachers must be sustained, if they are faithful and competent. The rules and regulations must be rigidly adhered to, if you would have your children benefited by attending the schools. These rules are made for the general good, for the poor as well as the rich. Every citizen must be aware of their importance and should see that they are fully sustained.

In most of our schools there are scholars who are kept out one or two days, and sometimes more of each week, to drive cattle, or for other purposes. This is not only a hindrance to themselves, by keeping them backward in their studies, but it retards the progress of others. We wish this could be avoided, for it is an evil, the bad effects of which are continually seen. It is hard to say that boys cannot be allowed to do this, especially in cases where the parents are poor and need all the earnings of their children to help along in the family; but where it is not absolutely necessary, the small amount earned is nothing compared with the loss in being



detained from school. We believe it would be better to have a separate school for those scholars who are obliged to be out a part of the time, so that others may not be retarded in their progress, or suffer injury from the influence of such examples.

#### SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

The upper portion of the new High School building has been occupied during the past year by the High School, and the two lower rooms by Primary No. 4. The whole structure is found to be admirably adapted to the purpose for which it was intended. The part devoted to the use of the High School, as originally designed, is large enough for the present, although somewhat crowded; yet the time is not far distant when it will be found necessary to make use of the whole of the building for the High School, and the rooms now used by the Primary will have to be given up, and a new school-house erected for the use of that district. The steam apparatus, by which the building is warmed, has succeeded well, and, under the careful and prudent management of Mr. W. C. Johnston, no complaints have been made of cold rooms, or being obliged to dismiss school on account of the severity of the weather.

Agreeably to a vote of the citizens at a town meeting held in March, 1867, cisterns have been constructed in the basements of the High and Bennett Grammar Schools, both of which are satisfactory, and well adapted for the supply of water so much needed by the scholars, thereby saving the neighbors much trouble and annoyance. Needed repairs have been made on the Bennett and Harvard Grammar buildings, and at the present time both are in good condition.

An alteration should be made in the Harvard Grammar School building, so as to make it more suitable for such a school. The arrangement is now very bad, there being no separate rooms for the two lower departments. At present,



all the scholars occupy one room with the principal and his two assistants, — the small rooms being used by the latter for their classes when called upon to recite, thereby causing considerable confusion in going out and coming in. There should be separate rooms for the two lower classes, as in the Bennett Grammar School. This improvement can be easily made at no very great expense, and should be attended to as soon as possible, as the school is very full and ought to be divided at the earliest possible moment.

Primary No. 3, a one-story building, in Oak Square, is one of the most pleasantly situated schools in town, and when built was supposed to be large enough to accommodate all the scholars for many years to come. In fact, it was thought to be much too large, for the district at that time was but thinly settled. Within a year or two the population has increased so much, that at the present time there is not room enough for all the scholars who apply for admission. This building will have to be enlarged by adding another story, which can easily be done at an expense of about fifteen hundred dollars, and for which we would recommend an appropriation, as well as one for the alteration of the Harvard Grammar.

It has not been found necessary to finish the upper part of Primary No. 6, for which an appropriation has already been made, the lower room being sufficiently large for the present to accommodate all the scholars of this district. With the exception of this, all the Primary Schools are very much crowded and more room is needed. The buildings are all in good repair, and no further expense necessary excepting as named above.



## PRIMARY NO. 1,

North Harvard Street.

*Principal.* — MISS MARY B. MONTGOMERY.*Assistant.* — MISS SARAH F. MONTGOMERY.

This school has continued in a flourishing condition during the past year, under the charge of Miss Mary B. Montg. Her scholars have made commendable progress, and appear at all times to good advantage; they are much attached to their teacher, who has labored with a cheerful zeal to interest them in their lessons, and make school a pleasant place.

At the beginning of the summer term, Miss Swett, the assistant, was appointed principal of No. 6, and was succeeded by Miss S. F. Montg., who also takes a lively interest in the little ones committed to her care.

The school appears to excellent advantage, as will be attested by the numerous visitors, including parents and friends of the pupils, who have visited it during the year and at the regular examinations.

## PRIMARY NO. 2,

School Street.

*Principal.* — MISS EMMA F. MORRILL.*Assistant.* — MISS ANNIE W. HOLMES.

Miss Emma F. Holmes resigned her position as principal at the close of the spring term, much to the regret of the Committee, who had always found her a most capable and efficient teacher. She could not be prevailed upon to remain, on account of an engagement that no one had a right to ask her to break. She was succeeded by the assistant, Miss Sarah P. Morrill, under whose government the school, although it appeared finely under Miss Holmes, continued to improve in discipline and good order as long as she remained, which was until the commencement of the fall term, when she was



promoted second assistant at the Bennett Grammar School. Miss Holmes, sister of Miss Emma F. Holmes, was appointed assistant at the beginning of the summer term, and in September was offered the position as principal; but, owing to the modest estimate of her own ability to occupy the position so ably filled by her sister, declined, much to the regret of the Committee, who believed her to be fully capable. Miss E. T. Morrill was then appointed principal, and has since fulfilled her duties with great credit to herself, and much to the satisfaction of the Committee and scholars.

### PRIMARY NO. 3,

Oak Square.

*Principal.* — MISS FRANCES E. MUNROE.

*Assistant.* — MISS MARY C. DUNCKLEE.

This school, so often favorably noticed, and famous for its good teachers, has continued to merit all the praise that has been bestowed upon it heretofore. Its good order and discipline, the affection of the scholars for their teachers, and the general air of happiness and contentment that prevail at all times among the children, render it one of the most delightful schools in town. We are inclined to think that the interest manifested by the parents and friends of the scholars in the school has had a great deal to do in producing this happy state of things. When the Committee were informed that Miss H. A. Henderson had decided to resign her position at the close of the summer term, they, as well as the parents and neighbors, felt that it would be almost impossible to find another to take the place of one who seemed to have a peculiar faculty of interesting children, and making the first rudiments of learning a pleasure to them. The presence of more than seventy visitors at the annual examination (and there would have been more if they could have been accommodated, for every vacant place was occupied), testified their regrets at being obliged to part with her. As a token of the love of



her scholars, and the esteem of the parents, an elegant silver pitcher and salver were presented to her subsequent to the examination. Miss Fannie E. Munroe, assistant at the commencement of the fall term, was promoted principal to take the place of Miss Henderson, and Miss Mary C. Duncklee was appointed assistant. The school has continued to prosper, and we trust will long retain the good name so successfully earned by its former teachers.

#### PRIMARY NO. 4,

Academy Hill.

*Principal.* — MISS SOPHRONIA A. COLLINS.

*Assistant.* — MISS FANNIE A. SWAN.

Miss Emma L. Waugh, principal until the commencement of the fall term, sent in her resignation at that time. We would most gladly have retained her in the school, could it have been possible; but the near approach of an important event in her life, and which has since been accomplished, prevented us from securing her valuable services longer. Under the charge of Miss Waugh the pupils made fine progress, and took much interest in their lessons and the good name of their school. We were sorry to lose one who possessed all the qualities of a good teacher, and succeeded so well in helping the little ones through the difficulties that beset the paths of young scholars. Miss S. A. Collins succeeded Miss Waugh as principal, and manifests much interest. We trust that she will not allow the school to recede from the high position it has already attained, but prove herself capable enough to satisfy those most interested. Miss Fannie A. Swan, a graduate of the High School, of the class of 1868, was appointed assistant in September, and has continued to discharge her duties to the satisfaction of the Committee. The citizens of District No. 4 possess a good school, and have reason to be proud of it.



## PRIMARY NO. 5,

Union Street.

*Principal.* — MISS CHARLOTTE ADAMS.*Assistant.* — MISS EMMA P. DANA.

No changes have been made in this school during the past year. Miss Adams, as principal, has amply fulfilled the expectations of the Committee, and is entitled to great credit for her faithful devotion to her pupils, and in succeeding so well in making school a pleasant place to them. They think a great deal of their teacher, and consequently take an interest in their studies because they know it will please and make her happy. We are glad to say that the parents of the scholars take a lively interest in the school, and not only visit it at the regular examinations, but as often during the term as they have opportunity. This pleases and encourages the children, and the consequence is, that it inspires them with a love for their teacher and school. Miss Emma P. Dana, the assistant, who occupies the lower part of the building, is worthy of all praise for the patience she displays towards the little ones, and for the interest she takes in their well-being. Her department appears to good advantage.

## PRIMARY NO. 6,

Webster Place, North Beacon Street.

MISS ALICE A. SWETT.

Miss Mary E. Wellman, who labored long and faithfully, and with the happiest results, resigned her position as teacher of this school at the end of the winter term. Her scholars were much attached to her, and testified their regret at her taking leave of her school, by presenting her with a very handsome silver pitcher, salver, and goblet, as a testimonial of their affection. We were sorry to be obliged to accept the resignation of so capable a teacher. She was succeeded by Miss Alice A. Swett, the former assistant of Primary



No. 1, who had filled that position with much credit. From our knowledge of the ability she displayed, and of what she proved herself capable while occupying that situation, we are assured that No. 6 has not suffered by the change, but will retain its well-earned good name, and continue to flourish as in the past. The trees set out by the liberality of the citizens of the district are doing well, and in a short time will afford ample shade for the little ones to play in when not engaged with their lessons.

# BENNETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

Winship Place, Agricultural Hill.

*Principal.* — MR. E. H. HAMMOND.

*First Assistant.* — MISS SARAH E. WAUGH.

*Second Assistant.* — MISS SARAH E. MORRILL.

*Third Assistant.* — MISS HELEN A. LEAVITT.

This school consists of three departments under the charge of a principal and three assistants. We found it necessary, owing to the large number of applications for admission, to appoint another assistant at the commencement of the fall term. The lowest department was very much crowded, and a large number of scholars, increased by the unusual number sent from the Primaries, had no seats. Consequently we were obliged to send the first class of the lower department into the second department, with others that were qualified to go there; the first class of the second department, that had been under the charge of Miss Waugh, into Mr. Hammond's, with Miss Waugh appointed as first assistant, thereby greatly increasing the number of pupils in the highest department. Although somewhat crowded, yet, under the careful and systematic course of instruction of the principal, aided by the efficient and energetic efforts of Miss Waugh, who has long been noted for the abilities of a good teacher, the school is in a highly flourishing condition, and, we believe, has never appeared to so good advantage as at the present time.



At the conclusion of the summer term Mr. W. A. P. Willard, then principal, was presented with an elegant quarto Bible by the graduating class, as a testimonial of their affection and respect. The Committee, thinking that the interests of the citizens demanded a change, at a regular meeting of the Board for the election of teachers, failed to re-elect him, but secured the services of Mr. E. H. Hammond, a gentleman with the highest recommendations from the most respectable inhabitants of one of the largest towns in the State, where he had been employed as a teacher for more than twelve years. He was engaged, after careful inquiries on the part of your Committee; and we are happy to state that the recommendations of Mr. Hammond, and our own observations as to his qualifications, have been fully confirmed by the present high position of his school.

Upon his accession to the office of principal, Mr. Hammond assumed a general supervision of the several departments. All the scholars assemble in his room for the morning exercises, which plan has produced better discipline, of which the school stood greatly in need, it having been exceedingly deficient in order and system when he took it. Since then the discipline and good order have gradually improved, until at present it is nearly perfect. We feel assured that the Bennett Grammar will compare favorably with any school of the kind in the Commonwealth.

The second department, so long under the care of Miss Waugh, and whose conscientious discharge of the duties devolving upon her had brought her department of the school to so high a standard, is now under the charge of Miss Sarah E. Morrill, who thus far has fulfilled the highest expectations of the Committee, and sustained the good name that had been conferred upon the school by her predecessor. Under the charge of Miss Morrill the scholars continue the sure progress commenced in the lower department, and ad-



vance steadily in their studies until qualified to be sent into the higher department of the school.

The third or lower department is still under the care of Miss Helen A. Leavitt, and, although the Committee would gladly have promoted her when the change was made in Miss Waugh's school, yet the modest estimate of her ability to take charge of a higher department determined her to remain where she is, much to the satisfaction of the scholars, who are greatly attached to her. This school, consisting as it does of scholars sent up from the Primaries, is a difficult one to manage, at least during the first term of the year. The new scholars enter this school with a childish importance of their promotion, and seem to entertain the idea that they will not be required to work very much; this makes it hard for the teacher, and all her energies are required to bring them into a healthy state of discipline. Miss Leavitt is well adapted to the duties incumbent upon her, and the good order that prevails is sufficient evidence of her capability.

#### HARVARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

North Harvard Street.

*Principal.* — MR. GUILFORD D. BIGELOW.

*First Assistant.* — MISS ELLEN CHILD.

*Second Assistant.* — MISS CAROLINE L. COLBY.

We have often had occasion to speak in the most favorable terms of this school, and what has been said heretofore will apply equally as well now. Energetic and industrious himself, the principal imparts to the scholars his own zeal and devotion, and inspires them with an interest in their studies but seldom met with. The consequence is, that the scholars not only are deeply interested, but their parents and friends also take much interest by attending all the regular examinations, and visiting the school whenever a convenient opportunity offers. Oftentimes at the regular examinations,



the school is so much crowded with visitors, that many of them cannot be accommodated with seats, but are obliged to submit themselves to the great inconvenience of standing throughout the exercises, rather than go away. What better evidence that the school and teachers are thought much of by those most interested in its welfare? Too much praise cannot be awarded Miss Ellen Child, for the conscientious and correct discharge of the duties that devolve upon her. By her gentle yet decided way of imparting instruction, the scholars acquire a love for their studies, and consequently make rapid progress. Miss Colby fills well the position assigned her, and is worthy of commendation for the faithful discharge of her duties. The Harvard Grammar is fortunate in having such competent teachers, and the citizens who send their children to this school may well be proud of it.

# HIGH SCHOOL,

Academy Hill.

*Principal.* — MR. W. H. MERRITT.

*First Assistant.* — MISS ANNA J. GEORGE.

*Second Assistant.* — MISS E. E. WILLIAMS.

The examinations during the year have been fully attended, thereby showing a greatly increased interest on the part of parents and friends in this school. This is what the Committee have been trying for years to bring about, and the result is what we predicted, namely, an increased interest also on the part of the scholars themselves, with a desire to excel, and renewed exertions on the part of the teachers to make the school worthy of all the labor and pains taken to make it as good as any in the Commonwealth.

The subject of presenting diplomas to the graduating class, mentioned in the report of last year, was carried into effect with the happiest results at the annual examination, July 21. From 8 A. M. until 2 P. M. the time was occupied in hearing



the different classes. The evening was devoted to the closing exercises of the graduating class, which were of a highly interesting character, consisting of select pieces in reading, dialogues, declamation and singing by the scholars, with instrumental music hired by them for the occasion.

The names of the graduating class, six in number, are as follows:—

Miss Mary C. Duncklee,  
Miss Fannie A. Swan,  
Miss Mary E. Purington,

Miss Emma F. Morrill,  
Miss Fannie W. Currier,  
Dexter Brackett,

who were presented with diplomas by the chairman of the Committee. Three of the graduates, Miss Emma F. Morrill, Miss F. A. Swan, and Miss M. C. Duncklee, have since become efficient teachers in our Primary Schools, their excellent scholarship commending them to the promotion.

The examinations throughout the year have been satisfactory, evincing competent instruction and careful study. If scholars are so disposed, there is no reason to prevent their obtaining an education that will fit them for college, or scientific schools, to be teachers, or for the ordinary pursuits of business. All that is needed to insure this, is a determination on the part of pupils to make the best use of their time while in school, and to devote the best energies of their minds to the acquirement of knowledge. Mr. Merritt, the principal, has been fairly tried, and is competent for the position he holds. Under his instruction, the scholars may, if they choose, obtain as good an education as can be furnished by any other institution of the kind in the country.

We cannot estimate too highly the services of Miss Anna J. George, who has held the position of first assistant, many years, with much credit to the school and honor to herself. She has a peculiarly happy way of interesting her classes, and making their lessons a pleasure to them rather than a task. The scholars who have graduated from the High School always speak of her in terms of affection, and look



back upon the hours while engaged with her in their recitations as the happiest of their lives. Miss E. E. Williams, the second assistant, is well qualified for the position she holds, and much credit is due for the able and conscientious discharge of her varied duties.

The High School was never in a more prosperous and flourishing condition than at the present time, and we believe that there is nothing wanted to insure its continued success but co-operation on the part of parents and citizens, and a renewed interest in its welfare as manifested during the year that has just closed.

The refining influence of music cannot be over-estimated; and the interest taken and the progress made by the scholars in this useful accomplishment has been most satisfactory, and is due to the indefatigable exertions of the teacher, Mr. C. E. Whiting, who is worthy of all praise for his labor in instructing them in the principles of music.

#### SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, ascertained by the Assessors, on the first day of May last, according to law, was 921, viz. : —

Boys	.	.	.	.	.	.	479
Girls	.	.	.	.	.	.	442
							—
							921

#### APPROPRIATION.

The Committee recommend that the sum of \$14,000 be appropriated by the town for teachers' wages, fuel, and incidental expenses of the schools for the ensuing year.

Respectfully, in behalf of the School Committee,

C. H. B. BRECK, *Chairman.*

C. H. B. BRECK, }  
J. P. C. WINSHIP, } *School*  
HENRY BALDWIN, } *Committee.*

BRIGHTON, Feb. 1, 1869.



# COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

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## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### FIFTH CLASS.

Hillard's First Primary Reader.  
Teaching the sound of each letter.  
Spelling from the Reader.  
Numbers from 1 to 100.

### FOURTH CLASS.

Hillard's Second Primary Reader, — to 50th page.  
Spelling from the Reader, with exercises in the sound of letters.  
Marks of Punctuation in Reading Lessons.  
Adding and subtracting numbers, to 20.  
Arithmetic by objects.  
Table of Numbers.  
Slate Exercises in Drawing.  
Singing and Physical Exercises for the whole School.  
Memorizing Verses.

### THIRD CLASS.

Hillard's Second Primary Reader, — completed.  
Spelling of words in columns and reading lessons, also by sound.  
Marks of Punctuation.  
Greenleaf's Primary Arithmetic, — to page 45.



## SECOND CLASS.

Hillard's Third Primary Reader, — to the 100th page.

Spelling of words in columns and in reading.

Difficult words to be spelled by sound.

Conversations on the meaning of what is read.

Abbreviations and Roman Numerals.

Greenleaf's Primary Arithmetic, — finished ; and first 30 pages in Intellectual Arithmetic.

Worcester's Speller, — to page 50.

Warren's Primary School Geography, — through North America.

## FIRST CLASS.

Hillard's Third Primary Reader, — completed, — with definitions, explanations, spelling by letters and by sounds ; also, questions on punctuation, the use of capitals, and the marks indicating the punctuation.

Worcester's Speller, — finished.

Greenleaf's New Intellectual Arithmetic, — to Fractions.

Warren's Primary Geography, — finished.

Drawing Exercises on Slate and Blackboard.

Abbreviations.

Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writing Books.

Singing and Physical Exercises.

Memorizing Pieces of Poetry, etc.

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 GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

## THIRD CLASS.

Hillard's Fourth Reader.

Worcester's Pronouncing Speller, — to page 70, and Abbreviations.



Greenleaf's Intellectual Arithmetic, — Fractions, to Lesson 37, page 101.

Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic, — commence and go to U. S Money.

Warren's Common School Geography, — to Eastern States, page 30.

Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writing Books.

#### SECOND CLASS.

Hillard's Intermediate Reader.

Worcester's Pronouncing Spelling Book, — to page 101.

Greenleaf's Intellectual Arithmetic, — to Interest, page 120.

Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic, — to page 169.

Warren's Common School Geography, — to Europe.

Kerl's Grammar, — to Syntax.

Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writing Books.

#### FIRST CLASS.

Hillard's Fifth Reader.

Worcester's Pronouncing Spelling Book, — finished.

Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic, — to Ratio.

Greenleaf's Intellectual Arithmetic, — finished.

Warren's Common School Geography, — finished, with Exercises in Map-drawing.

Kerl's Common School English Grammar, — finished.

Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writing Books.

Composition, Singing, General Exercises, and Declamation, every Wednesday and Saturday, after recess.

Physical Exercises.

In the study of Geography, Guyot's shall be used by the teachers as a book of reference, and in reviews.



## HIGH SCHOOL.

## FIRST YEAR.

Hillard's Sixth Reader, — Exercises in Spelling.

Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic, — completed.

Quackenbos's U. S. History.

Kerl's Grammar Common School.

Hall's Manual of Morals, — a weekly lesson, with oral instruction.

## SECOND YEAR.

Reading, — till the commencement of Spring Term.

Algebra, Greenleaf's Elementary.

Quackenbos's Natural Philosophy.

Physical Geography, Warren's.

Book-keeping, Mayhew's System, during Spring and Summer Terms.

General History.

French.

## THIRD YEAR.

Algebra, Greenleaf's Elementary, — completed.

Geometry, Greenleaf's, — begun.

General History, Worcester's.

Astronomy.

Botany. Gray's "How Plants Grow." — Commencement of Spring Term, through the year.

French.

## FOURTH YEAR.

Geometry, Greenleaf's, — completed.



Chemistry, Youman's.

Rhetoric, Quackenbos's.

Constitution of the United States, — Shepard's Text Book.

Drawing.

Declamation and Composition, — alternately each week.

#### CLASSICAL COURSE.

*Optional in place of French and Mathematics.*

1st Year. — Latin Grammar, Andrew & Stoddard's.  
Latin Reader, Andrew's.

2d Year. — Cæsar, Andrew's.  
Greek Grammar, Sophocles'.  
Greek Lessons, Sophocles'.

3 Year. — Anabasis, Crosby's.

4th Year. — Cicero, Folsom's.  
Iliad (three Books).  
Ancient Geography.

#### GENERAL EXERCISES.

1st Year. — Writing Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Writing Books.

*Through the Course.* — Reading, Spelling, General Literature, Composition (once a fortnight), Declamation (once a fortnight); Music, under the direction of the Music-Master.



## SCHOOL TERMS.

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The school year is divided into three terms, as follows : —

1. *Spring and Summer Term* — 20 weeks.

Begins — March 2, 1869.

Vacation — Anniversary Week.

Ends — July 25, 1869.

Vacation.

2. *Autumn Term* — 12 weeks.

Begins — September 7, 1869.

Ends — November 28, 1869.

Vacation.

3. *Winter Term* — 12 weeks.

Begins — December 7, 1869.

Ends — February 27, 1870.

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## HOLIDAYS.

Wednesdays and Saturdays, P. M.

New Year's Day.

Washington's Birthday.

Fast Day.

June Day (1st).

June 17.

July 4.

Commencement at Harvard (High School only).

Thanksgiving.

Christmas.



# RULES OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

ADOPTED 1867.

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## I. ADMISSION AND TRANSFER OF PUPILS.

### 1. *Age.*

No child under five years of age shall be admitted as a scholar.

### 2. *Transfer of Pupils.*

1. Pupils shall be transferred from one grade of schools to the next higher grade, annually, at the beginning of the school year, after passing satisfactory examination before the School Committee, on the entire course of study, to the point at which the candidate seeks to enter.

2. For the transfer from the Primary to the Grammar Schools, the ordinary examination at the end of the school year shall be sufficient in the cases of those scholars whose examination the School Committee may deem satisfactory, and who may appear creditably on the Registers of the Schools and in the Reports of the Teachers.

3. For transfer from the Grammar Schools to the High School, seventy per cent. of correct answers shall be required of those examined. This percentage shall be deemed indispensable in spelling, arithmetic, and grammar; while in all other branches of study, scholars, whose percentage is not below fifty per cent. may be conditionally transferred by School Committee.



*Absences, etc.*

Any pupil who shall lose fifty lessons, in any one term, by absence, dismissal, or any other way, or whose total average scholarship shall fall below three on a scale of five, shall forfeit his connection with his class. Whenever any pupil is becoming liable to the action of this rule, the teacher shall notify his parent or guardian, and if no material improvement is made thereafter, he shall be transferred to the next lower grade.

*Special Admissions and Promotions.*

Children who may become residents of the Town after the beginning of the school year may be admitted as scholars; or those in schools of lower grade, whom it may be deemed desirable to promote, may be promoted at any time, on examination by the School Committee, if they are found qualified to join any class existing in the schools to which such promotion would raise them.

## II. ATTENDANCE.

1. *Attendance at the Daily Sessions.*

When the absences of any scholar exceed in number ten half days in any term of school, such scholar shall be considered as having resigned membership in the school, and shall be readmitted only by order of some member of the School Committee.

*Proviso for the Preceding Rule.*

The teacher, on personal knowledge, or satisfactory evidence, that a scholar's absences are occasioned by sickness or other just cause, may, at discretion, suspend the operation of the preceding rule. But, in case of ten unexcused absences, the rule as above shall always take effect.



*Attendance at the Examinations.*

Any scholar, absent from examination at the close of any term of school, shall, if required, pass a similar examination before one or more of the School Committee, previous to his resuming his attendance in the schools.

## III. DISCIPLINE.

1. The pupils shall be taught good morals and good manners; and particular attention shall be paid to correctness of deportment, and neatness of appearance.

2. It shall be the duty of the teachers to maintain a kind and parental discipline in the schools. They shall keep a record of all cases of corporal or other equally severe punishment, for the inspection of the School Committee.

## IV. REGISTERS.

The teachers shall keep registers as follows:—

1. *The Register of Attendance.*

On this register shall appear the *full* name, and age, and number of each scholar, with the record of his or her attendance on each half-day session of school. This Register shall be kept according to the plan and upon the blank forms supplied by the State Board of Education.

2. *Register of Deportment.*

On this register shall be entered every noted fault in deportment, and, as an offset, any notable feature of good behavior, constancy, or excellence as a scholar; that the whole may be summed up by the end of the term, for the inspection of the School Committee.

*Register of Study.*

1. *In the High School and Grammar Schools.*—Each principal or his assistants shall record the recitations of each



pupil according to their merit, crediting them from one to five, according to their ability, for each recitation.

To simplify the mode, each scholar may register, in a little book provided, the number of credits gained, and report to the teacher each day the number he or she is entitled to, that return only to be entered in the register kept by the teacher.

2. *In the Primary Schools.*—In the Primary Schools each recitation is not marked separately, but one number represents all the recitations or other exercises of study for the half day session.

#### *Summation of the Registers.*

At the close of each term of school a summation shall be made, for the inspection of the School Committee, of all the credits or demerits which each scholar has received on each of the other registers separately.

The Committee will make due mention of extraordinary attainments or deficiencies, as shown by the summations of each scholar.



# STATISTICAL TABLE.

## SCHOOLS.

	SPRING & SUM. TERM.				FALL TERM.				WINTER TERM.			THE WHOLE YEAR.				Per Cent. of Attendance.
	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Examination.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging at Close.	Present at Examination.	Average Attendance.	Pupils Registered.	Belonging Jan. 1st, 1868.	Average Attendance.	Average at Examination.	Av. Belonging Jan. 1st, 1868.	Average at Examination.	Average Attendance.	
High School . . . . .	75	67	61	65	68	65	62	63	65	65	59	62	66	62	62	90
Bennett Grammar, 1st Department . . .	65	60	58	61	68	60	55	56	68	64	56	55	62	55	56	90
“ “ 2d . . . . .	55	45	43	44	49	46	38	40	42	38	34	40	43	40	39	80
“ “ 3d . . . . .	54	44	38	44	48	38	23	35	48	40	18	30	40	30	38	76
Harvard Grammar . . . . .	98	56	56	68	93	79	79	83	86	86	66	68	74	68	73	87
Primary, No. 1 . . . . .	107	87	87	75	109	99	96	90	92	88	86	92	91	92	84	82
“ “ 2, 1st Department . . . . .	70	57	40	43	60	56	47	46	57	56	40	44	56	44	43	69
“ “ 2, 2d . . . . .	90	66	62	50	68	58	47	49	58	47	35	54	57	54	45	63
“ “ 3 . . . . .	80	64	63	56	68	61	56	51	70	65	51	61	63	61	58	74
“ “ 4, 1st . . . . .	56	42	38	67	41	38	33	84	35	33	28	54	56	54	58	80
“ “ 4, 2d . . . . .	87	69	48	69	60	59	46	79	59	57	44	53	52	53	56	76
“ “ 5, 1st . . . . .	46	41	40	38	42	42	35	32	44	43	35	38	43	38	32	84
“ “ 5, 2d . . . . .	74	66	55	56	67	65	55	60	51	44	46	51	51	51	52	76
“ “ 6, . . . . .	66	56	49	50	56	53	42	46	54	54	40	43	45	43	58	78























E. F. L. Bindery  
MAR 7 1910



